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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1855.

REVIEWS.

Russia on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof. By H. D. Seymour, M.P. Second Edition. Murray.

RECENT events have given additional interest to Mr. Seymour's work. The operations of the allied fleets this summer in the Sea of Azof have made us better acquainted with places hitherto only known from the reports of travellers. The political as well as the commercial importance of these regions is better understood; and the war which began with the object of checking the territorial aggrandizement of Russia, will be the means of opening up new paths to commerce and civilization. Mr. Seymour devotes a large part of his volume to this subject; and although the successes in the Sea of Azof have attracted little attention compared with the siege operations before Sebastopol, they will certainly be followed by more important and permanent results in regard to the diminution of Russian influence in the East. It is stated by Mr. Seymour, on the authority of persons connected with these countries, that the stores destroyed at Kertch, and other places on the Sea of Azof, belonged to the Russian government, and not to private merchants, as Mr. Cobden asserted in the House of Commons; and that the destruction of the provisions purchased for the armies in the Crimea has been a severe blow to the Russian power. It is added, that had the fleet penetrated to Rostof, a still larger amount of damage might have been inflicted, as to this place are brought the shot and shells, and other military stores, from the foundry at Lagan, and other magazines, for the supply of the fortresses in the Black Sea. At Novo Teherkask, the capital of the Don Cossacks, and at Naketchivan, the head-quarters of some of the largest army commissariat contractors, there is much property within reach of the allied fleets. It may be too late this season to avail ourselves of this information, but the Sea of Azof will be again next year the scene of important operations. From the eastern coasts the allied armies will besides draw ample supplies, both of cattle for food, and horses for the cavalry. The ease with which the successes were obtained at Kertch, Berdiansk, Mariopol, Taganrog, and Soujuk Caleh, gives encouragement to repeat the same course of action with the more efficient and suitable armaments suggested by the experience of this year's operations. Mr. Seymour gives a detailed description of all places of importance on the Sea of Azof, with statistical reports on the trade and commerce, derived from the most authentic sources. In addition to the published statements in various Russian and French works, valuable facts have been communicated by Mr. Yeames, late Consul-General at Odessa; Mr. Lander, of the mercantile firm of Yeames and Co., at Taganrog; and others intimately acquainted with Southern Russia. Referring to the volume for the commercial details, we give some of the conclusions at which Mr. Seymour arrives in estimating the future prospects of these regions, if the policy of the Russian government could be liberalized:—

"I have now given a list of the principal articles of export from the Sea of Azof, and endeavoured to explain the manner in which so large an amount

of agricultural produce is raised in so poor a country. The imports, as I have said, are kept out not because the population are unwilling to receive them, but solely by the high duties of the Russian tariff. These were reduced in 1850, but not low enough to create any sensible benefit. M. Tegoborski, in his answer to M. Léon Faucher, at once admits this fact, and says that the finances of the state would undoubtedly profit by a different policy. The reason for not relaxing the tariff is probably political. The manufacturers, whose trade has been created by protection, would undoubtedly cry out at any change, but the more powerful body of the consumers would be favourable to it, so that the Government would have little to fear from the hostility of the public feeling. It would have, however, a decidedly liberal political tendency. It would be impossible to admit foreign goods in large quantities and at the same time prevent a greater intercourse with foreigners, who would be chiefly the inhabitants of Western Europe. These would bring with them their own ideas, the results of unfettered reason, for which the natives of Russia, of all people in the world the most unprejudiced, feel a natural yearning. The Russian Government is too wise not to see that it would be impossible for it to keep up its present system under such altered circumstances; and therefore, although it admits the beneficial effects of larger foreign importation so far as an increase of wealth is concerned, yet, considering as indispensable the maintenance of its present military system, it is obliged consistently to refuse free trade.

"It appears, then, from what I have said in this chapter, that the commerce of the Sea of Azof is rapidly increasing in importance; that the countries surrounding it are rich and, as yet, undeveloped; and that, from the fine system of river communication which reaches the sea at Rostof, it is constantly drawing towards it for shipment a larger portion of the productions of Great Russia. There cannot be a doubt that, when peace is restored, a great impetus will be given to its trade; that it will benefit by the increased movement that will probably take place on all the shores of the Black Sea; and, should the Russian Government wisely change its military policy, and allow its stout-hearted and enterprising subjects to pursue their natural industrious bent, capital and population will flock to the south, and Rostof and Kertch will rival the Tana and Panticapæum of ancient days. No restrictions will then be placed on those who wish to come and learn in Europe; no passports will be refused to enterprising young Russians who wish, in France or England, to gain that knowledge of the arts and sciences which is impossible in their own country; and no vulgar and ignorant censors will be placed at the gates of the empire to keep out books as the most dangerous enemies of the existing system, because the most valuable of them treat of truth and liberty. Russia will allow the fraternisation of her people with us, and admit the imports of more civilised countries as the surest way to increase her own commerce, and by these means she, as well as Turkey, will be really admitted into the European federation."

Of the history and topography of the places adjacent to the Sea of Azof a careful account is given; but the chapter on the commerce and trade, the facts of which have been mainly supplied by Mr. Lander, is the leading feature in which Mr. Seymour's book has superiority over all others that have previously described this country. We only hope that the British Government will have the wisdom to make use of the information acquired from so trustworthy a source. A man like Mr. Lander ought to be coveted for official duty of high trust, but it has been apparently the system of the Home Government to avoid employing men whose peculiar fitness for public offices in the East was by all others recognised. Thus Colonel Rawlinson, who was pointed out by public opinion as the right man to be

sent as British envoy to Persia, and General Chesney and others who were universally regarded as the fittest officers to deal with the natives of countries with which they were familiar, are passed over in favour of comparatively inefficient nominees of Downing-street politicians. Mr. Seymour does not withhold his earnest protests against this bad government. With all the faults of Russian despotism, the court at St. Petersburg has the wisdom to appoint the most suitable men that can be found for special offices, and thus the British are perpetually foiled by the Russians in diplomacy, in the East as well as in Europe. Speaking of Circassia, Mr. Seymour says:—

"The taking of Anapa will allow the Circassians to overspread the country as far as the Bosphorus, and even to cross it and assist us in the Crimea, a part of which they formerly occupied, and from which some of their noblest families make it their boast to have come. From Soujuk Caleh it is now friendly country to Ekaterinodar on the Kubán, the capital of the Black Sea Cossacks; and if judicious persons be sent to treat with the Circassians, a long line of easy and important victories will be opened to us. But in the East, still more than in the West, everything depends upon a judicious selection of agents; and it is especially necessary, among free mountaineers, to gain their confidence by kind, considerate conduct, and to persuade them that you have no projects for your own aggrandizement, but wish, by confirming their independence and adding to their strength, to render them a strong bulwark against Russian aggression."

The part of the work relating to the Crimea will be read with much interest, although several works have of late appeared in which many of the descriptions, and especially the historical narratives, have been anticipated. Of the natural beauty of parts of the country glowing accounts are given, which contrast strangely with the reports of the desolations of war, and with the remembrance of the hardships endured by our army on the bare upland plateau of the Tauric Chersonese last winter. But there is no exaggeration in the following description of other parts of the country at no great distance from the scene of our disasters:—

"If the reader will look at the map, he will see that at Mangoup we are about one-third of the distance from Sevastopol to Baktcherais, and on the confines of the two formations that cause Steppes to the north and a romantic scenery to the south. A tributary of the Belbek leads down a wild valley from Mangoup to Koráles, which I have already noticed as the residence of the beautiful Tatar princess, Adel Bey; and a little to the west of Koráles is Tcherkess Kerman, or the fortress of the Tcherkess, and Tcherkess Tus, the plain of the Tcherkess, and the river Kabarda, which mark the spot where a colony of that noble and chivalrous people, whom we call the Circassians, dwelt for several centuries, and beyond this plain the high road is seen running to Sevastopol along the open Steppe. There is, therefore, little to interest the traveller to the north; but let him go east, south, and west of Mangoup, and he may make endless excursions in a most lovely country. He may wander up the valleys of the Belbek, the Katcha, and the Alma, and cross the mountainous country which divides their channels; and whether he be geologist, archaeologist, or only an admirer of the beauties of nature, he will find his tastes amply gratified, and every simple want supplied among the primitive and hospitable Tatars.

"The geologist may admire and unravel the intricate system where endless strata have been forced up and bent, especially in the Heracleotic Chersonese, into the most fantastic forms, while jets of igneous rocks may be traced, giving the key to the wild confusion that reigns around.

"The archaeologist will find in every hill top, and in every rock and valley, traces of the many nations that have inhabited the Crimea, from the rude crypts of the savage Tauri, to the graceful fragments of the Grecian column; and the traveller, who wanders simply to enjoy his physical existence, will ever find health and strength in a delicious climate, and the purest enjoyment of the senses in its exquisite rural beauty. Endless flocks and herds browse along the valleys, while near the fresh high plains, raised up in the bosom of the mountains by stupendous volcanic agency, Tatar villages are snugly situated in sheltered spots, surrounded by orchards, which supply even Petersburg with fruit, and where the vine has flourished from the earliest ages. Added to all these charms, the sea is always near, and its glorious expanse is seen from every mountain-top, and that coast can at all times be readily visited, which tempted the beauty-loving Greeks to found here some of their earliest and most flourishing colonies.

"The Ai Petri, Mount Babagan (4500 feet), and the Tchatyr Dag (5125 feet), the highest mountains in the Crimea, are seen from all parts, and from the summit of the latter there is a very beautiful view. All around it, in the country within the influence of the Tauric chain of mountains, is a succession of verdant hills and valleys, which seem, as Dubois says, to be a great island, surrounded by two oceans, that of the sea on the south, and of the Steppes on the north, so flat and uniform do the latter appear to be. Tchatyr Dag means tent-mountain in Tatar, and this name has been given to it because of its form, the last 700 feet of which rise like a large oblong tent, which in ancient times procured it the name of Mount Trapezus. There are, all along the Tauric chain, elevated plains, called in Tatar, Yailas, such as are also found in the range of the Caucasus, covered in both countries with excellent herbage, on which, in summer, large flocks of sheep and goats are pastured.

"The honey of the Crimea is of a very superior quality; the bees, as in Greece, feeding on blossoms of the wild thyme of the mountains, and such flowers as the garden spontaneously affords. Every Tatar cottage has its garden, in the cultivation of which the owner finds his principal amusement. Vegetation is so rapid, that, in two years, vines not only shoot up so as to form a shade before the doors, but are actually laden with fruit. They delight to have their houses as it were buried in foliage. These consisting only of one story, with low flat roofs, beneath trees which spread numerous branches quite over them, constitute villages, which, at a distance, are only known by the tufted grove in which they lie concealed. When the traveller arrives, not a building is to be seen; it is only after passing between the trees, and beneath their branches, that he begins to perceive the cottages overshadowed by an exuberant vegetation of the walnut, the mulberry, the vine, the fig, the olive, the pomegranate, the peach, the apricot, the plum, the cherry, and the tall black poplar; all of which, intermingling their clustering produce, form the most beautiful and fragrant canopies that can be imagined.

"Through this beautiful valley, now devastated by contending armies, the high road, called the Woronzoff road, leads past the villages of Miskomia and Arnoutka, to reach the southern coast, and crosses the mountain barrier, which shuts out the valley from the sea by the pass of Phorus, which, till the road was made, was only accessible by stone stairs cut in the rock, perilous alike to man and beast."

The historical notices of the Crimea, from the earliest periods, are brought down to the latest events of the war; and it is satisfactory to find Mr. Seymour, notwithstanding his low opinion of the conduct of the war by the Government, still sanguine that a prosperous issue cannot be far distant:—

"When we look at the Russian forces now assembled in the Caucasus, the Crimea, and the German and Baltic frontiers, we see the whole of

the Russian army, including its reserves, which cannot be easily augmented. Each man that falls now becomes of great importance to the Emperor; for the conscription is becoming more and more difficult, and bearing with increased severity upon all the interests of the empire. The age at which conscripts are taken is now raised to thirty-seven; and the sons of aged or widowed parents, who have hitherto been exempted, are to serve, and be formed into separate corps. I believe that in the manufacturing establishments in Russia as many as twenty-five per cent. of the workmen have lately been carried off for the conscription.

"The difficulties of Russia are increasing every day; and it is hardly possible for her to carry on the war for another six months, if with our change of Ministry we likewise have a change of system, and if at home and in the Crimea our superior officials, both military and civil, have anything like that intelligence, activity, intrepidity, and single-minded love of their country displayed by the common soldiers and regimental officers of our army, who have hitherto been the only bulwarks to save us from national disgrace."

We must not omit to mention that Mr. Seymour's notices are partly the result of personal observation, having in 1844 visited the Crimea, and in the same year, and again in 1846, having been in the other districts which the volume describes. From the elaborate works of M. Dubois de Montperoux on the Caucasus, M. Haxthausen on the Russian Army and Navy, M. Tegoborski on Russian Resources and Finance, M. and Mme. Hommaire de Hell on the Steppes of Southern Russia, the Caucasus, and the Crimea, the most important information is extracted, with due acknowledgment by Mr. Seymour, whose work is the most complete and trustworthy English book yet published on Southern Russia. A map of the Crimea and of the Sea of Azof, plans of Sebastopol and of Kertch, and other illustrations, are given. The appendix contains an official list of the Russian naval force in these seas; a translation of General Suwaroff's famous military catechism; an account of the timber trade of Russia; the statistics of the ports of the Crimea; and a valuable memorandum on the navigation of the Danube, by Mr. Cunningham, English Consul at Galatz.

The Poetical Works of William Lisle Bowles. With Memoir, Critical Dissertations, and Explanatory Notes. By the Rev. George Gilfillan. 2 vols. Nichol, Edinburgh.

To this edition of the collected works of William Lisle Bowles, which appears in the Edinburgh edition of the British Poets, Mr. Gilfillan prefixes a well-written and interesting memoir. Bowles he considers the father of the modern school of English poetry, the earliest of the brilliant host of writers, among whom the names of Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Southey are more conspicuous. He introduces the memoir by a sketch of the previous great epochs of poetical literature, noting the changes from the Elizabethan era, through the times of Dryden, Pope, and their followers, till Percy, with his 'Reliques of Ancient Poetry,' recalled attention to ruder and stronger lays than the admirers of artificial metre had been accustomed to, and Cowper and Burns expressed in noble verse the workings of natural passion and of earnest thought. Of Bowles, as the first of a new race of poets, a biographical and critical notice is then given. His life is about to be written by his kinsman, Dr. J. Bowles, assisted by Mr. Alaric Watts, and meanwhile the following facts

may be acceptable to readers who are unacquainted with the circumstances of his history:

"William Lisle Bowles—whom we have ventured to call the father of modern poetry, since not only was he first in the field, but since his sonnets inspired the more powerful muse of Coleridge—was descended from an ancient and respectable family in Wiltshire. His grandfather and father were both clergymen in the Church of England. The poet was born in King's Sutton, and baptized there on the 25th of September, 1762. In the year 1776 he was placed on the Wykeham foundation at Winchester. His master was Dr. Joseph Warton, who, seeing genius disguised under the veil of his pupil's boyish timidity, encouraged him in his efforts, was warmly loved by Bowles in return, and transmitted to him his very moderate estimate of the poetry and character of Pope. Bowles has testified his gratitude to his teacher in his very pleasing 'Monody on the Death of Dr. Warton.' During the last year he passed at Winchester, Bowles was captain of the school. In the year 1781 he was elected a scholar of Trinity College, Oxford, having selected this College because the brother of his old master, Thomas Warton, was residing there. In 1783 he gained the Chancellor's prize for Latin verse—'Calpe Obsessa; or, the Siege of Gibraltar,' being the subject of the poem. At college he got no fellowship, nor did he procure his degree till 1792. At an early age he is said to have been unsuccessful in his suit to a Miss Romilly, a niece of Sir Samuel Romilly; and this rejection it was which first stung him into rhyme and rambling; for, in order to deaden his feelings, he traversed the north of England, Scotland, and parts of the Continent. His first production consisted of fourteen sonnets, published in 1789, and was followed the same year by 'Verses to John Howard.' In 1790 he reprinted these and various other pieces written in the interval, and in 1798 they were reproduced with illustrations. They became so popular, that by the year 1805 they had reached a ninth edition.

"Almost every year from 1798 till the end of his life, Mr. Bowles was adding to his works new poems of various merit. In 1798 appeared his 'Coombe Ellen, and St. Michael's Mount;' in 1799 'The Battle of the Nile;' in 1801 'The Sorrows of Switzerland;' in 1803 'The Picture;' in 1805 the 'Spirit of Discovery;' in 1806 'Bowden Hill;' in 1815 'The Missionary of the Andes;' in 1822 'The Grave of the Last Saxon;' in 1823 'Ellen Gray;' in 1828 'Days Departed;' in 1833 'St. John in Patmos;' and in 1837 a volume entitled, 'Scenes and Shadows of Days Departed, a Narrative;' besides 'The Village Verse-Book,' a very popular selection of simple poetry.

"The events of this gentleman's private and professional life were of no particular interest. Having entered holy orders, he resided for many years as curate in Donhead St. Andrew, in Wiltshire, where he remained till 1804, when he was appointed vicar of Bremhill—a situation which he continued to fill till the end of his long life. In 1792 he was presented to the vicarage of Checklade, in Wiltshire, which he resigned, after an incumbency of five years, on receiving another presentation to the rectory of Dumbleton, Gloucestershire. This living he retained till his death, although he never resided at either Dumbleton or Checklade. In 1804, through Archbishop Moore, he was made vicar of Bremhill, and the same year, prebend of Stratford in the cathedral church of Salisbury. In 1828 he was elected canon-residentiary. He had, in 1818, been appointed chaplain to the Prince Regent. He resided constantly at Bremhill for twenty-five years. After he was elected canon, however, he abode partly, and in the latter years of his life principally, in the town of Salisbury. In 1797 he married Magdalene, daughter of the Rev. Charles Wake, D.D., prebendary of Westminster, and grand-daughter of Archbishop Wake. She died some years before her husband, and left no family. Bowles himself expired at Salisbury, after a gradual decay of the vital powers, April 7, 1850, aged eighty-eight years.

"Bowles was a diligent pastor, an eloquent preacher, an active justice, and in every way an estimable man. Even Byron, who met him at Mr. Rogers' in London, speaks of him as a 'pleasant, gentlemanly man—a good fellow for a parson.' Moore, in his *Diary*, speaks with delight of his mixture of talent and simplicity. In his introduction to 'Scenes and Shadows,' Bowles gives some interesting particulars of his early life. In 'Blackwood,' for August, 1828, there is a very entertaining account of Bremhill parsonage."

Many may remember the prominent part taken by Bowles in a controversy, which at the time attracted much notice, as to the merits of Pope as a poet. The fact of Byron, Campbell, Roscoe, and others of high name, being his opponents gave more consequence to Bowles than his cause or his arguments deserved. He was the first who maintained, 'what many small men have done since, that Pope was a mere rhymester and maker of verses. We have no inclination to refer further at present to this foolish discussion, and have at various times expressed our opinion on it. Byron's judgment we entirely agree with when he speaks of Pope as "the most harmonious of poets," adding, "It is this very harmony which has raised the vulgar and atrocious cant against him; because his versification is perfect, it is asserted that it is his only perfection; because his truths are so clear, it is asserted that he has no invention; and because he is always intelligible, it is taken for granted that he has no genius." Attempts are made to distinguish poetry as artificial and natural, and Pope is by these triflers considered no poet because he chose to make the passions of men rather than the petals of primroses his favourite theme. The poetry of Bowles, as might be expected from the part he took in this controversy, is chiefly of the gentle and "pretty" school. Some of his subjects were ambitious in their aim, and he attempted to describe the grander features of nature, but not with much success. Let Mr. Gilliland, who writes of his works with kindly and partial tenderness, give the critical estimate of his powers:—

"He excels far more in interpreting the language of the bells, now of Ostend, and now of Oxford—in describing the dingles of Coombe Ellen—in echoing the fall of the river Avon, heard in his sick-chamber at Bath—or in catching on his mind-mirror the 'Distant view of England from the Sea.'—than in coping with the dark recesses of the American forest, following the daring Gama round his Cape of Storms, standing with Noah on the brow of the tremendous mountain Caff, the hill of demons and griffins, and seeing the globe at his feet, or in walking beside the Seer of all time, in that 'isle which is called Patmos,'

'Placed far amid the melancholy main.'

He is more at home in the beautiful than in the sublime—more a Warton than a Milton—and may be rather likened to a bee murmuring her dim music in the bells of flowers, than to an eagle dallying with the tempest, and binding distant oceans and chains of mountains together by the living link of his swift and strong pinion. Yet his 'Spirit of Discovery' contains some bold fancy. Take this, for instance:—

'And, sweeping the horizon's tract,
Mightiest of mountains! whose eternal snows
Feel not the nearer sun; whose umbrage chills
The murmuring ocean; whose volcanic fires
A thousand nations view, hung, like the moon,
High in the middle waste of heaven.'

"The Missionary" (of which Byron writes in some playful verses to Murray,

'I have read the Missionary;
Pretty! Very!')

contains much vivid description and interesting narrative; and 'St. John in Patmos,' if scarcely up to the mark of the transcendent theme, has a

good deal of picturesque and striking poetry. Perhaps the most interesting of all his minor poems is that entitled 'Childe Harold's Last Pilgrimage,' quoted, we remember, in Moore's 'Life of Byron.' As proceeding from one whom the angry and unhappy Childe had often insulted in public, and laughed at in private, it was as graceful in spirit as it is elegant in composition. 'Revenge,' it has been said, 'is a feast for the gods;' and the saying is true if meant of that species of revenge which gains its end by forgiveness. An act so noble and generous as the writing of this, is calculated to set the memory of Bowles still higher than all his poetry."

The piece here referred to we quote, as it is not generally known:—

"CHILDE HAROLD'S LAST PILGRIMAGE."

"So ends Childe Harold his last pilgrimage!
Above the Malian gear he stood, and cried,
Liberty! and the shores, from age to age
Renowned, and Sparta's woods and rocks, replied,
Liberty! But a spectre at his side
Stood mocking, and its dark uplifting high
Smote him; he sank to earth in life's fair pride:
Sparta! thy rocks echo another cry,
And old Iliuss sighed, Die, generous exile, die!

"I will not ask sad pity to deplore
His wayward errors, who thus early died;
Still less, Childe Harold, now thou art no more,
Will I say aught of genius misapplied:
Of the past shows of thy spleen or pride.
But I will bid the Arcadian cypress wave,
Pluck the green laurel from Peneus' side,
And pray thy spirit may such quiet have,
That not one thought unkind be murmured o'er thy grave."

"So ends Childe Harold his last pilgrimage!
Ends in that region, in that land renowned,
Whose mighty genius lives in Glory's page,
And on the Muses' consecrated ground;
His pale cheek fading where his brows were bound
With their unfading wreath! I will not call
The nymphs from Pindus' piny shades profound,
But strew some flowers upon thy sable pall,
And follow to the grave a Briton's funeral."

"Slow move the plumed hearse, the mourning train,
I mark the long procession with a sigh,
Silently passing to that village fane
Where, Harold, thy forefathers mouldering lie;
Where sleeps the mother, who with tearful eye
Pondering the fortunes of thy onward road,
Hung o'er the slumbers of thine infancy;
Who here, released from every human load,
Receives her long-lost child to the same calm abode."

"Bursting Death's silence, could that mother speak,
When first the earth is heaped upon thy head,
In thrilling, but with hollow accent weak,
She thus might give the welcome of the dead:
Here rest, my son, with me—the dream is fled—
The motley mask and the great coil are o'er;
Welcome to me, and to this wormy bed,
Where deep forgetfulness succeeds the roar
Of earth, and fretting passions waste the heart no more."

"Here rest!—on all thy wanderings peace repose,
After the fever of thy toilsome way;
No interruption this long silence knows;
Here no vain phantoms lead the soul astray;
The earth-worm feeds on his unconscious prey:
Here both shall sleep in peace till earth and sea
Give up their dead, at that last awful day,
King, Lord, Almighty Judge! remember me;
And may Heaven's mercy rest, my erring child, on thee!"

A number of miscellaneous poems are given in this edition, under the head of 'inedited, unpublished, &c.,' but some of them, we think, we have seen or heard before, and are unable to say which are now for the first time printed from the manuscript put at the editor's disposal by the poet's executors. We give one of the best of these pieces:—

"SILCHESTER, THE ANCIENT CALEVA."

"The wild pear whispers, and the ivy crawls,
Along the circuit of thine ancient walls,
Lone city of the dead! and near this mound,
The buried coins of mighty men are found,
Silent remains of Caesars and of kings,
Soldiers of whose renown the world yet rings,
In its sad story! These have had their day
Of glory, and have passed, like sounds, away!

"And such their fame! While we the spot behold,
And muse upon the tale that time has told,
We ask where are they?—they whose clarion brayed,
Whose chariot glided, and whose war-horse neighed;
Whose cohorts hastened o'er the echoing way,
Whose eagles glittered to the orient ray!

"Ask of this fragment, reared by Roman hands,
That, now, a lone and broken column stands!
Ask of that road—whose track alone remains—
That swept, of old, o'er mountains, downs, and plains;

And still along the silent champagne leads;
Where are its noise of cars and tramp of steeds?
Ask of the dead, and silence will reply;
Go, seek them in the grave of mortal vanity!

"Is this a Roman veteran?—look again—
It is a British soldier, who, in Spain,
At Albuera's glorious fight, has bled;
He, too, has spurred his charger o'er the dead!
Desolate, now,—friendless and desolate—
Let him the tale of war and home relate.
His wife (and Gainsborough such a form and mien
Would paint, in harmony with such a scene),
With pensive aspect, yet demeanour bland,
A tottering infant guided by her hand,
Spoke of her own green Erin, while her child,
Amid the scene of ancient glory, smiled,
As spring's first flower smiles from a monument
Of other years, by time and ruin rent!

"Lone city of the dead! thy pride is past,
Thy temples sunk, as at the whirlwind's blast!
Silent—all silent, where the mingled cries
Of gathered myriads rent the purple skies!
Here—where the summer breezes waved the wood—
The stern and silent gladiator stood,
And listened to the shouts that hailed his gushing blood.
And on this wooded mound, that oft, of yore,
Hath echoed to the Lybian lion's roar,
The ear scarce catches, from the shady glen,
The small pipe of the solitary wren."

Of the two volumes, the one contains the Sonnets, which first brought Mr. Bowles into distinction, The Spirit of Discovery, The Missionary, and miscellaneous poems. The second contains Banwell Hill, a Lay of the Severn Sea, The Grave of the last Saxon, St. John in Patmos, The Sorrows of Switzerland, The Villager's Verse-Book, Song of the Cid, and poems, inedited and unpublished.

The Monarchy of France: its Rise, Progress, and Fall. By William Tooke, F.R.S. S. Low, Son, and Co.

MR. TOOKE seems to have compiled this volume for his own satisfaction, and in publishing it he has rendered an acceptable service to the student of history. The object of the work is to present in a condensed form the leading facts of the history of France, from the early Gallic period to the modern Revolutionary epoch. For this purpose, the best historians and political writers of France have been industriously consulted, and the results of their researches abstracted. Father Daniel, Mezeray, Anquetil, Sismondi, Thierry, Mignet, Thiers, Lacretelle, Lamartine, are among the authors cited or referred to; but more direct assistance has been derived from the 'Abrégé Chronologique' of the President Henault, and a work published in Paris in 1820, 'Revue Chronologique de l'Histoire de France,' from 1787 to 1818. So large a range being included in a single volume, little more than a bare outline of the history can be looked for; but in regard to certain well-marked periods, chapters are introduced in which the reader's attention is called to the internal condition of the country as well as its outward history, and these form not the least interesting and valuable parts of the book. Thus, after giving the dates and facts of the national annals during the reigns of the kings of the Merovingian and Carolingian races, the following account appears of the constitutional and political condition of the mingled population over which Hugh Capet commenced a rule, to be continued under his successors for eight centuries:—

"The population of France was composed, during that period, of the clergy, of the nobility, and of all the remaining undefined and undefinable portion of the inhabitants denominated, *en masse*, the *tiers état*; and which, at the close of the eighteenth century, was the subject of a celebrated pamphlet by the Abbé Sieyès, propounding three awful questions, and suggesting three equally portentous answers:—'Qu'est-ce que le Tiers état?—Tout. Qu'a-t-il été jusqu'à présent dans l'ordre

politique?—Rien. Que demande-t-il?—A être quelque chose.

"During the first, or Merovingian race, the general assemblies of the people at the Champ de Mars, or the Champ de Mai, took cognizance of all affairs, civil as well as military, and administered summary but corrective justice; these meetings were abolished or discontinued by Charlemagne.

"In the meantime the Salic and Riparian codes prevailed, in common with the Roman law, throughout the northern portion of Gaul, as the codes of the Burgundians and Visigoths did in the south, with an option given to the inhabitants to declare upon oath by which law they elected to be governed. In addition to which, each province, and all the lesser districts, had a customary or common law, which was of mere local obligation.

"Charlemagne, soon after his accession, issued a series of capitularies in emendation or substitution of the existing codes, laws, and customs.

"The great barons, whose lands had heretofore been held by them for life only, contrived, during the imbecility of the later sovereigns, to extort from the mayors of the palace, as the price of their continuance in that office, the grant of an hereditary title, rendering them virtually independent of the crown.

"The members, or rather classes, of the Frankish community, as they successively existed from their first settlement in Gaul, to the termination of the second race of their kings, and the tribunals established for the administration of justice among them, may thus be recapitulated:—

"The rank of chieftain, duke, or king, as he was latterly called, was originally elective, regard being had only to the line of male descent, but none whatever to legitimacy of birth, or seniority of age. The same irregularities prevailed throughout the first two lines, while the reverse was remarkably the case with the Capetian race. It may here be observed, that on the election of Charles the Bald by an assembly of the nobles, he designated himself, in his coronation oath, as constituted king, 'by the grace of God, and the election of the people,'—a form recently adopted on an occasion of a like nominal election to the same crown.

"The Franks being in a state of constant warfare, their king, or commander-in-chief, was necessarily possessed of extensive domains, and of great influence, which, with the addition of his military dictatorship, rendered his authority almost irresistible, and only amenable to the great annual general assembly of the Champ de Mars, afterwards the Champ de Mai—a tumultuous meeting of the whole tribe,—abolished at an early period of the reign of Charlemagne.

"Next to the king were the great chieftains, who, individually, were equal to him in their ducal rank and possessions, and only yielded obedience to him in his military capacity; these were the Antrustians ('qui in truste domini sunt leudi fideles'); these, as the great vassals of the king, formed his immediate council."

Hugh Capet commenced his reign A.D. 987. Of the social condition of the people of France at this date, some gleaned records are thus put together:—

"The art of writing was unknown to the laity, including the king and his nobles, hence great irregularities took place in establishing the claims of marriage, and the legitimacy of the issue; the contract was stated at the door, or in the porch, of the church previous to the celebration of the ceremony within it, all depending, therefore, on the memory of the witnesses as to the validity of both: thus great facilities were afforded for divorces, on pretence of the marriages being within prohibited degrees, or lighter causes of displeasure or caprice. Pasquier compares the clergy of his period to their predecessors, the Druids, as the sole depositaries of the religion and letters of the people; during the tenth and eleventh centuries, it was the custom to designate all who could read or write, *grand clerics*, and such as could do neither, *maunderers*;

while so much of science as did not amount to sorcery, was called *clergie*. The church had already recovered from the pillage inflicted on it by Charles Martel; and, possessed of from a third to one-half of the land of the kingdom, the prelates threw off all regard to the duties of their station, while many of them were noted for the profligacy of their manners, and occupied their time not only with the chase, but in the fiercer encounters of battle; some led the life of freebooters, and more than one council was held for the deposition of two bishops who had been captains of banditti; the sentence of deposition was appealed against, and both bishops were restored by the pope, on the ground that the crime of robbery might be expiated by penance; at a subsequent council they were convicted of high treason, and deprived of their sees.

"The great nobles, over whom the king had little or no control, were engaged in perpetual civil wars, carried on with unmitigated and savage ferocity, the unhappy inhabitants and tillers of the soil enjoying no respite from the alternations of pillage and oppression by the barons, and the rapacity and pious frauds of the bishops."

In the latter part of his volume, relating to the Revolutionary period, Mr. Tooke devotes a more than reasonable proportion to biographical notices of almost all the conspicuous deputies to the States General, extracted from a French 'Dictionnaire Biographique des Hommes Marquans, de la fin du Dix-huitième Siècle.' Mr. Tooke's volume will be found a very convenient book of reference.

Gertrude: or Family Pride. By Mrs. Trollope. Hurst and Blackett.

It is some time since we met Mrs. Trollope, and her reappearance is after a fashion somewhat foreign to her usual literary style. 'Gertrude' is a love story, but the sentimental, as might be expected in the author's hands, is secondary to the satirical—the subject of ridicule being family pride. Baron von Schwanberg, the father of the heroine, is a man whose Bible is the Almanack de Gotha. "No man," he used to say, "shall ever marry my daughter, with my consent, whose family have not found a place here." This worship of social rank is the central passion of his character. Many were the suitors of the wealthy heiress of Schloss Schwanberg—for Gertrude was an only child—to all of whom she turned a deaf ear, but not for the same reason that influenced the foolish old father. We are not going to tell any part of Mrs. Trollope's story, but a single passage will give a glimpse of the plot, and explain the subtle force by which family pride was overthrown. One day when the young heiress was riding with her father, in fording a river her pony was carried down by the stream. She was rescued by the heroic exertions of a youth, who was severely injured in rescuing her. This young man, Rupert Odenthal, was nephew to a priest in a neighbouring village. Some days after the adventure, a conversation took place between Gertrude and her father, of which this is part:—

"Gertrude was a very quick, intelligent child, and required wonderfully little prompting on the present occasion. Nothing could have less the appearance of a plot than the manner in which she said to her father, as she sat knitting beside him, while he smoked his pipe, 'I will tell you what you shall do for Rupert, papa, besides giving him physic. You shall have him here always in the house, to keep the library in proper order. I am almost as fond of galloping over the books as over the grass; but my dear pony does not make half so much confusion among the flowers as I do among the volumes. I don't think I am so naughty

about any thing as I am about the books; for when I have got all I want out of one of them, I never can find out the right place to put it in, and so, of course, the confusion goes on getting worse and worse every day. And it is a great shame! I know that too, papa, for mamma says that quantities and quantities of them have belonged to our grandee ancestors since the days of Noah, I believe. Now if you will tell Rupert that he is not to go away at all, but to stay here and keep your books in order, everything will be right.'

"The Baron looked at her with admiration and astonishment, and for a moment or two appeared to be in deep meditation, for he said nothing; but he spoke at last, and then, as was very usual with him, it was to express his admiration of her extraordinary abilities.

"On her now gaily clapping her hands, and exclaiming, 'Well, then, dearest papa! you will let this good boy, who nearly killed himself to prevent my falling into the water—you will let him stay at the castle, and take care of the Von Schwanberg library, and he must be called the *librarian*, you know. I believe that he is rather young for a librarian, but that does not signify, for he deserves to be treated like a grown-up person, because he behaved like one.'

"Quite true! Perfectly true, Gertrude," said the greatly pleased Baron; who, by some lucky chance, happened to know that the Emperor had a library, and a librarian. 'Of course, as you grow up, my dear, it will become necessary for me to make several additions to my establishment. As soon as ever you are old enough to be presented at the different courts, where I mean to introduce you, I shall have a groom of the chambers, Gertrude, for the purpose of announcing to you in a proper manner all persons who may have the honour, wherever we may be, of being permitted to wait upon you and your mamma.'

"Slow as the movements of the Baron von Schwanberg generally were, but few hours were permitted to elapse after Gertrude left him, before he despatched a man and horse to the residence of Father Alaric, requesting his immediate attendance at the castle. The newly appointed confessor lost no time in obeying the summons; and in the course of the interview which followed between him and his noble penitent, he had, while doing honour very justly due to the acquirements of his young nephew, the good fortune to dwell upon one of his acquirements, which added in a very important degree to the satisfaction with which the Baron contemplated the idea of adding the youth to his establishment.

"We can never be grateful enough," said the humble-minded confessor, 'for the noble generosity with which it is your excellency's pleasure to recompense my nephew for the service which the special Providence of the Holy Virgin enabled him to perform to the precious heiress of Schwanberg; but my happiness, from this flattering arrangement, is very greatly increased, by my thinking that the education which my nephew has received by the help of his mother, may be of service in more ways than one to your excellency.'

"By keeping the valuable library, bequeathed to me by my ancestors, in good order," said the Baron, with dignity.

"Not only that, your excellency, but it is a comfort to me to think that, by the careful instructions of his mother, who is an excellent scholar, he writes so beautifully well as to be quite capable of performing the duties of a secretary to your excellency."

"Now, in truth, the noble Baron von Schwanberg had no more want of a secretary than of a milliner; but he was perfectly well aware that very great men did employ a secretary; and though the idea of adding such an appendage to his establishment had never occurred to him, he no sooner heard it mentioned by Father Alaric, than he felt suddenly convinced that he should find such a functionary extremely useful; but that he had been very neglectful of his own ease and convenience by neglecting to provide himself with this very necessary attendant before."

The result may be readily anticipated, although a variety of incidents intervene by which the course of true love is made not to run smooth. At the end of the tale Mrs. Trollope presents a formal and somewhat commonplace moral about the dignity of intellect as contrasted with mere rank:—

"There is a revolution, dearly beloved reader, which is steadily at work among us, the progress of which is not the less sure, because its onward movement is neither vehement nor noisy. We are all perfectly well aware that prosperous commerce, and successful industry, will often cause so near an approach between the toe of the commoner and the heel of the noble, as to run some risk of galling a kibe; and this is a fact still more patent in our days, than it was when the keenest of all observers first made the remark. But true as the remark was then, and more true as it is daily becoming, by the eager onward movement of this successful industry, there is another cause at work also, which, I believe, is likely to become infinitely more effective in lessening the distances by which society is divided, than any which acquired wealth can produce. Nor is the lessening social distance its only effect. Social distance may be lessened with very little chance of producing any feeling of equality as its result. But let the Barons von Schwannberg, who make the real 'Almanack de Gotha' (not my almanack) their guide-book, let all such keep a sharp look out upon the species of *free trade in intellect*, which is so very obviously threatening to set at naught the prohibitions of heraldic law-givers. The perils arising from a too close juxtaposition between long-descended rank and newly-accumulated wealth, are as nothing when compared to the revolutionary influence of widely-diffused education.

"In proportion as that highest order of education which develops the thinking powers of human beings becomes general, the effort to separate society into distinct social classes becomes more difficult. The system of enlarged education, which is so evidently gaining ground among us, will do more towards lessening the inequalities of rank, than all the heralds will be able to withstand. Titles were abolished in France, yet no equality of condition ensued; but let the son of a tinker, born with a powerful and healthful intellect, have that intellect fully developed by education, and the effort to keep him within the tinkering sphere will be as vain as the attempting to make a thoroughbred race-horse pass for a fitting bearer of a pack-saddle."

Mrs. Trollope's notions about the revolutionary influence of modern education are somewhat visionary. The fact is, that in former times a strong and well-trained intellect had far better chance of rising to distinction, in spite of humble birth, than now, when education is more diffused among all classes. History abounds in examples of men who, by dint of sheer mental power alone, have broken through social obstacles, and taken high place in spite of heraldic prohibitions. Learned men complain now-a-days that they have not the public consideration received by their order in times when they can point to great names in literature holding important political offices. Mrs. Trollope's American experience might also have taught her that an intellectual and educated people do not despise titles; and although in other forms than the 'Almanack de Gotha,' worship of rank and ambition of social distinction are nowhere more displayed than in a democratic republic.

NOTICES.

Cleon. A Drama. By Robert W. Thom. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

'CLEON' is announced as part first of a larger work, entitled 'Life Phases,' a dramatic poem. We may say at once that any interest in Mr.

Thom's drama will be found rather in the detached thoughts and language, than in the plot or invention. The very names of the Castle of Helldon-graugh, and the Rissenwold, and the battle of the Lake of Prowes, have a sound remote from any historical sympathies. What is most noticeable in Mr. Thom's poem is the quaint and often vigorous diction, laboriously imitative of the style of our old Elizabethan writers. Something of this phraseology may be seen in the following speech of *Cleon*, an old patriot soldier, the governor of *Earl Godfrey's* castle, addressing *Gabriel*, tutor to the son of the Earl:—

"*Gabriel.* Noble *Cleon*, I perceive
My presence, pardon me, has given you pain;
I fear I stand not well in your esteem!
Cleon. Plainly and truly, Sir, I love you not,
But in my nature, and not in your lacking,
May be the cause. Since I was more than boy—
Since peasant nature, dwelling in the fields,
Lying in unalaced ease, in kirtled bonifidness,
Seasons, and nights, and winds her ministers—
Made me too of her council, by the love
She woke in me and won unto herself,
Cherishing and blessing it most constantly—
My heart has, with a heart's perversity,
Harboured a pity not akin to sorrow,
Not tempered by love's gentleness, for men
Who deem that they can rule, persuade, or teach,
Not having borne on their unarmoured bosoms
The shock of the living world. But most for men
Who, having talked from youth with wrinkled knowledges,
Old in the secret of the facts of things,
Conceived themselves a gospel and a law,
By reverence and obedience to be lackeyed:
Oh, I have noted always, though such men
Seem to the world to live in strict precision,
Having swift action for the constant sequence
Of their minds' motion, and rich execution
Paging it to the becking of their wills;
Yet that their lives, scanned with but slight observance,
Are ever found, in purpose, course, and issue,
To a marvel mean, stunted, and beggarly.
Let this suffice. Oh Sir, my heart is heavy,
And finds no pleasure in the use of speech,
Strip of the softness and the light of love.
Depart, I pray you."

Cleon is a finely conceived and well portrayed character, and his death scene is very strikingly told. *Alice* and *Ada* are also fine sketches, and some of their speeches breathe a spirit of poetry rarely reached by living writers. A dramatic poem is not the form in which Mr. Thom's peculiar style could find most successful utterance.

Monastic Institutions. Their origin, progress, nature, and tendency. By Samuel Phillips Day. Longman and Co.

Of the history of the monastic system, from its first origin to the present time, Mr. Day's book gives a clear and well-arranged summary, with more detailed accounts of some of the orders, which by their tenets or their influence deserve fuller description. The last two chapters of the work are of most direct and general importance, treating of the principal monastic orders at present existing in Great Britain and Ireland, and pointing out their pernicious tendency in a social, moral, physical, and political aspect. Mr. Day was formerly of the Order of the Presentation, and has been well acquainted with other monastic institutions and operations, so that his work has the weight derived from the personal experience and knowledge of the author. It is singular that Roman Catholic countries like Sardinia and Spain should be now resisting the political aggressions and checking the social disorders of ecclesiastical orders, which in Protestant England contrive to work uncontrolled. The plea of religious toleration should not cover the political movements and the social and moral evils sure to belong to monastic institutions, when not open to official inspection, and under control of healthy public opinion.

Pyrenaica; or, a History of the Viscounts of Béarn, to the Death of Henry IV., with the Life of that Monarch. By C. Pemberton Hodgson, Esq. Wright.

MR. PEMBERTON has been a sojourner in many lands, and has recorded his impressions and observations in books of considerable interest. He mentions that the first time he ever heard of Pau was when he was a squatter in Australia, in 1840. He little thought when he received a letter with the postmark of that strange town that he was to live

there, marry one of the daughters of the land, hold the office of Her Britannic Majesty's vice-consul, and, we may add, write this lively volume of Pyrenaic sketches, becoming the chronicler of the Béarn, and the biographer of the monarch of whom the Béarnais are so justly proud. Much of the historical part of the book is derived from previous writers, but the materials are thrown into an agreeable narrative, and much useful information is given about Pau and the surrounding country. Beginning with the early times of the 'Commentaries of Julius Caesar,' Mr. Hodgson narrates the memorable events of ancient history connected with this region of France, including the romantic episodes of the days of Charlemagne and Abd-er-Ahmann. Froissart lived at the court of Béarn, and there wrote many of his brilliant pages. Gaston de Foix, Jean d'Albret, Queen Margaret de Valois, and other names famed in story, fill a portion of Mr. Hodgson's narrative, but the bulk of the book is occupied with the Life of Henry IV., of whose political character and military exploits the author is an enthusiastic admirer, without concealing his disapproval of the personal vices which disfigure the history of one of the greatest of princes.

The Philosophy of the Beautiful. By John G. Macvicar, D.D. With Illustrations. Edmonston and Douglas.

READERS of thoughtful minds and of cultivated taste will be pleased with this essay, although they may not assent fully to the theory which it unfolds and illustrates. Dr. Macvicar believes that the first principles of the beautiful are in nature "as determinate as any proposition in mathematics," and as one consequence of this, that "discussion as to the fine arts would in future admit of a logical form, as it has done in reference to the economic arts since the epoch of Galileo. It would be possible both to point out and to prove a fine feature or a fault in reference to an ornament, a picture, or a poem, as it has long been in reference to a bridge or a harbour." All this is opposed to the generally received theory that the idea of the beautiful is the result of association and experience, not produced by formal education, but by the gradual formation of feelings and habits of judgment. Ingeniously as Dr. Macvicar argues and illustrates his opinions, we hold to the old theory of the principles of taste being creations of experience and results of association. The simple fact of children and of barbarous tribes having no standard of judgment as to taste and beauty, or standards widely diverse from those of educated men or of civilised nations, suffices to show that there are no natural and definite principles, as the author alleges. It is true that children and savages admire beautiful objects, but they are such as produce sensuous pleasure on the nerves of vision, such as brilliant light or bright colours. If the principles of beauty were natural, even to the extent of those of morality, they would be universal; and of the law of taste, as of conscience, it might be said, "Nec erit alia lex Romæ, alia Athenis; alia nunc, alia posthac; sed et omnes gentes et omni tempore una lex, et sempiterna et immortalis, continebit, unusque erit communis quasi magister, et imperator omnium Deus." But the degree of assent given to Dr. Macvicar's theory will not affect the satisfaction derived from the perusal of his able and philosophical treatise, which indeed we have read with greater pleasure from its presenting some views different from those commonly held on the subject.

SUMMARY.

MR. C. D. YONGE, the author of a 'Gradus ad Parnassum,' an 'English-Greek Lexicon,' and the translator of various Latin classics, &c., publishes (Bentley) *A Phraseological English-Latin Dictionary* for the use of public schools. The words and phrases are chiefly confined to those in use in the Augustan age of the language, beginning with Cicero and ending with Ovid. When other words are introduced the authorities are cited. It is a very useful school-dictionary for ordinary purposes of Latin composition.

Two little collections of poetry, *The Dream*, and

other Poems, by Joseph T. Chapman (Binns and Goodwin), and *Poetical Attempts*, by the Rev. Hugh Rogers (Binns and Goodwin, Bath), contain pieces worthy of perusal, but are not of such merit as to call for special criticism or lengthened notice.

For juvenile readers, a *Sunday Book for the Young; or, Habits of Patriarchal Times in the East* (Van Voort), gives notices of Eastern manners and customs referred to in Scripture, with illustrations. A *Visit to the Water-Fowl* in St. James's Park, describes to young people some of the species most common or most conspicuous. The book is printed at the office of the 'Family Economist.'

A little book, entitled *How to Live in London*, by J. Gordon Lomax (Barton), contains miscellaneous information of a kind not given in ordinary guide-books to the metropolis. The addresses are given of about a hundred dining-places in all parts of London, with the prices, styles, and hours. There are also notices of trips out of London to places where the traveller may take his ease at a good inn at the end of his journey. Mr. Lomax confines his hints on 'Life in London,' to the commissariat department, for the comfortable and economical management of which his book gives useful hints.

A little tract, *Cottage Economy* (Masters), by Augusta Anne Pitney, late pupil teacher, has the peculiar recommendation, among many similar treatises, of being written by a cottage girl, who gives, for the benefit of others, the result of her own and her mother's experience. The information and advice were conveyed in the form of three lectures to the girls of the Westbourne National School, and are now published, with a commendatory notice, by the Rev. Henry Newland, rector and vicar of the parish. It is a very useful and practical little book.

The fifth volume of the *Select Works of Dr. Chalmers*, edited by his son-in-law, the Rev. William Hanna, LL.D. (Constable and Co.), contains the Natural Theology, Lectures on 'Butler's Analogy,' and some miscellaneous lectures introductory to the course of theology in the University of Edinburgh.

In the Excelsior Library (J. F. Shaw), the second volume contains a reprint of an American work, which we have lately noticed with praise, in its original form, *Lectures on English Literature from Chaucer to Tennyson*, by Henry Reed, Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in Pennsylvania University, U.S.

For readers of the medical profession, a collection of essays, entitled *Surgical and Pathological Observations*, by Edwin Canton, F.R.C.S. (S. Highley), deserves attention, as the result of practical experience in the classes of cases described. They have appeared, at various times, as papers contributed to the 'Lancet' and 'Medical Gazette.'

Observations on the Fisheries of the West Coast of Ireland, by Thomas Edward Symonds, Commander R.N. (Chapman and Hall), refer more particularly to the operations of the London and West of Ireland Fishing Company, but contain facts and suggestions of general importance in connexion with the development of the resources of Ireland.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Barrett's (W. G.) Geological Facts, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Bogue's Traveller's Guide, Paris, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Book of Psalms, Notes from Horne and Horsley, 2 vols., £1.
 Brewster's (M. M.) Little Millie, crown 8vo, 3s. 6d.
 Cobbold's (R.) Union Child's Bible, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 De Fivas' (M.) Treasure, 12mo, bound, 2s. 6d.
 — Beautés, new edition, 12mo, bound, 3s. 6d.
 — Fables, new edition, 12mo, bound, 2s. 6d.
 — Grammar, new edition, 12mo bound, 3s. 6d.
 — Guide, new edition, 12mo, bound, 2s. 6d.
 Dudevant's French and English Idiomatic Dialogues, 2s. 6d.
 Edwards (J.) on the Freedom of the Will, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
 Grant's (J.) Philip Bello, 1 vol., post 8vo, boards, 2s. 6d.
 Halliwell's Archaic Dictionary, 2 vols., 8vo, 3rd ed., £1 1s.
 Harris's (J.) Patriarchy, 8vo, cloth, 10s.
 Her Record is on High, fcap., cloth, gilt, 2s.
 Jones's (T. R.) Animal Kingdom, 2nd ed., 8vo, cl., £1 11s. 6d.
 Lilly Gordon, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
 Marmon's (A.) Maritime Ports of Ireland, 8vo, cloth, 12s. 6d.
 Mary Elliott, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Molyneux's (Rev. C.) Broken Bread, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Russell's (W. H.) The War, post 8vo, cloth, new edition, 5s.

Simms (W.) on Levelling, 8vo, cloth, new edition, 8s. 6d.
 Smedley's (P. E.) Lewis Arundel, post 8vo, boards, 3s.
 Smith's (T.) Nuisances Removal Act, 12mo, boards, 5s.
 Sunday Book for the Young, 16mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Todd's (Rev. J.) Index Rerum, 8vo, half-bound, 2s. 6d.
 Yonge's Phraseological English-Latin Dictionary, 9s. 6d.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

As our space will be occupied next week with the Annual Address of the President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, about to assemble on Wednesday at Glasgow, we give by anticipation, in its entire form, an important Report which is to be presented on that occasion by this Committee, consisting partly of men distinguished for their attainments in science, and partly of men selected for their advice and influence as members of the Legislature, have been confined, during the past year, to two subjects:—

- 1st. The juxtaposition of the Scientific Societies in some central locality of the Metropolis;
- 2ndly. The report on the question, Whether any measures could be adopted by the Government or Parliament that would improve the position of Science or its cultivators in this country?

With respect to the first of these subjects, a memorial was presented to Lord Aberdeen in May, 1853, but the Committee failed to obtain any official answer. On the 30th of last June, however, a deputation of the memorialists waited on the present Premier, Lord Palmerston, and the interview is stated to have been satisfactory. Lord Palmerston having himself taken part in the proceedings of the British Association at the meeting in 1846, at Southampton, when Professor Oersted first enunciated those properties of the electric current which have proved of such great national service, is well able to appreciate, if only in a practical and political point of view, the advantage to the country of giving more encouragement to science and scientific men; and this, it may be hoped, will lead in time to the consideration of the suggestions made in reference to the second subject.

Reserving to ourselves the privilege of commenting at any future time on these suggestions of the Parliamentary Committee, we rest content for the present with giving simply the Report, which has originated in manner following. To certain men of established eminence in the different departments of science the question was submitted—

"Could any measures be adopted by the Government or Parliament that would improve the position of Science or its cultivators in this country?"

The answers received by the Committee have been arranged and considered under the following heads:—

- "1st. How can the knowledge of scientific truths be most conveniently and effectually extended?"
- "2nd. What inducements should be held out to students to acquire that knowledge; and, after the period of pupilage has expired, to extend it, and turn it to useful account?"
- "3rd. What arrangements can be made to give to the whole body of competent men of science a due influence over the determination of practical questions, dependent for their correct solution on an accurate knowledge of scientific principles?"

How is the knowledge of science to be extended?

"For the purposes of this inquiry, the community may be divided into those who resort to the Universities for education, and those who do not. As to the former, we know of no step that would be more effectual than that which we have already recommended in our Report of last year, viz., that a certain amount of knowledge of physical science should be required from every candidate for a degree. The expediency of this course is strongly urged by Professor Phillips and Mr. Grove in answer to our query, and also by distinguished witnesses, who gave evidence to the University Commissioners. Your President, in his late address at Liverpool, has stated it as an undeniable proposition, 'that those who administer the affairs of the country ought at least to know enough of science

to appreciate its value, and to be acquainted with its wants and bearings on the interests of society.'

"Mr. Grove observes, 'that it is melancholy to see the number of Oxford graduates who do not know the elementary principles of a telescope, a barometer, or a steam-engine. The contempt of anything manual or mechanical, which Bacon so strongly reprobated, still prevails, to a large extent, among the upper classes.'

"Some evidence was given to the Oxford University Commissioners in reference to the inconveniences suffered by Oxford graduates when thrown suddenly on their own resources, as *e.g.* in a newly-settled country, from their neglect of physical science during their university career.

"It must be remembered also, that there is scarcely any profession or vocation in life in which some amount of knowledge of physics may not be a desirable, or even necessary acquisition. The legislator, statesman, and even legal tribunals, through ignorance of the principles of natural science, become the prey of charlatans; and vast sums of money may be squandered on impracticable, unnecessarily costly, or useless projects. In the legal and medical as well as in the naval and military services, a knowledge of scientific principles is most essential, and should be imparted to all; but this is too wide a field to enter upon here.

"Now, there can be no doubt that if science be made an essential condition for obtaining a degree, it will be taught more extensively at schools, and at the University itself. This will give rise to an increased demand for accomplished professors and teachers, or to some modification of the professorial system calculated to effect this object. The increase in the numbers of teachers, and the necessity for giving increased salaries to ensure high qualifications, will in itself create a variety of lucrative employments; and this, again, will stimulate students to learn that which is capable of affording them a comfortable provision in after life. The whole machine of instruction will thus act and react to the great benefit of all concerned; and if other stimulants, about to be alluded to, be added, a valuable species of knowledge will rapidly spread among those destined hereafter either to teach or to discharge important functions, or fill high offices in the State.

"While recommending, however, that physical science should be required from all candidates for a degree, we admit that a discretion should be left to the University authorities, as to the extent to which this desirable change shall be at first carried into effect, in full confidence that studies so attractive and useful will eventually obtain from all candidates for University degrees that share of attention to which they are so justly entitled.

"As to that portion of the population who do not resort to universities for instruction, it is to be hoped that University Reform will diminish the number of this now very numerous class. The best mode of imparting to them instruction in science seems to be that suggested by Mr. Grove and others in their replies to our Circular; that is, that professors paid, either wholly or in part, by the State, should be appointed to deliver gratuitous, or very cheap lectures, illustrated by philosophical apparatus, to Institutions, in London and at the principal provincial towns, whose rules of admission and management should have been duly approved; and, when the system has been well organized, it might even be still further extended.

"Such lectures would be successful only in proportion as they were followed by examinations and rewards to diligent hearers, who might thus be induced to extend their studies, and assist in the diffusion of sound knowledge.

"We are aware that lectures, even though followed by examinations of a nature really calculated to test the degree of attention and ability of the hearers, are by no means a substitute for that course of severe study and mental training which can alone introduce the student to an accurate knowledge of physical science. Lectures, however, even when addressed to men wholly, or almost wholly ignorant of their subject-matter, are very valuable as stimulating curiosity, exciting desire

for study, and diffusing a general knowledge of facts and principles, and perhaps enabling attentive hearers at least to appreciate science; and when addressed to the real student, lectures are useful aids, particularly in those departments which require experimental illustrations.

"On this subject, Professor Phillips, whose skill and experience in imparting oral instruction are so well known and appreciated, has forwarded to us the following remarks. He observes, 'that success in teaching depends not merely, or even mainly, on the ability of the teacher, it is much more the effect of his standing in the right relation to his audience. For conversational, *i. e.*, tutorial teaching, one class of mind, for public teaching of large audiences, another is required. Again, a teacher, whether by conversation or lecture, must lead by short strings. You cannot explain the precession of the equinoxes to a man who does not know what the rotation of the earth means. . . . University men should be employed for University work; local men for local work. No man can take away from others the ignorance which he has never felt, or sympathised with.'

"The Professor then proceeds to urge the employment as teachers of persons in the same grade of life as those to be taught.

"Sir Charles Lyell contrasts the state of Germany with that of this country in reference to the teaching of physical science. He says, 'that in the former country, not only in cities where there are Universities, but almost everywhere in places where there exists a school of considerable size for boys under the usual university age, there is at least one teacher to be found whose business it is specially to give instruction in natural philosophy and history, and who has charge of a collection of natural objects. Frequently these teachers are so much devoted to some one of the branches in which they give instruction, as to be authors of original papers in scientific periodicals. So far is this from being the case in England, that I have visited large cities where there are richly endowed ecclesiastical establishments, where I have in vain inquired for a single individual who is pursuing any one branch of physical science or natural history. Hence it happens that if the townspeople, assisted by some of the gentry and clergy of the neighbourhood, establish a museum, they cannot obtain any scientific aid towards its arrangement and superintendence.'

Sir Charles suggests that laymen should be almost invariably selected to fill those Professorships which relate to the departments of science represented in our Association. He suggests also, that if provincial lectureships should be established, five or six towns should be first selected, which have exhibited their taste for scientific knowledge by the foundation of museums and the appointment of curators, such as York and Bristol. The Government might enter into an arrangement with the latter to double their salaries, so as to secure to them a continuation of the local patronage already afforded them, and prevent the new grant from becoming merely a substitute for it.

"Mr. William Tite, M.P., observes:— 'The practical course to be adopted, and which has, I believe, to some extent, been carried out by private efforts, or the tardy intervention of the State, seems to me to consist, for instance, in the formation of schools of mining in such places as Cornwall, &c.; of schools of arts and sciences in such places as Manchester, &c.; of schools of navigation in Liverpool, &c.; of agriculture in York, &c. Perhaps in all it might be found advisable to found thirty schools or colleges of this description, with (it may be) on the average six professors in each. I would propose that these professors should only be appointed after a severe examination before a competent Board; the Board not named by the Government, but by the Councils of the Universities, and of the different recognised and chartered scientific institutions. They should be paid by a small fixed salary from the State, but principally by the fees from Students, the latter being regulated by the examining Board, or by any municipal council which would undertake to defray the fixed charge.

or the cost of the buildings and apparatus necessary. The united body of professors should be entitled to confer honorary degrees, which should in no case convey any description of exclusive privilege. . . .

"An annual vote of between 18,000*l* and 27,000*l*. would suffice to carry out this system, — surely a very small sum to be devoted by a country like England, to the practical scientific education of the people.

"The only measures,' continues Mr. Tite, 'I should at present wish to see adopted to connect science with public affairs, would be by attaching eminent men to the various Government Boards.'

"Sir Charles Lemon, whose experience in these matters is well known, decidedly objects to any plan under which itinerant lecturers should be employed.

"In addition to the direct advantages derivable from lectures, we may remark that the establishment of an enlarged staff of professors and teachers will provide further employment in after-life for students; and the situations will be in themselves so attractive, that many will be induced to accept them, on receiving a moderate remuneration for their services; the rather, that in the interval between their professional labours, time might be found for prosecuting their studies.

"That these professors should prosecute those studies by which they have obtained their offices, is most desirable. The scientific character of the nation suffers from this cause, that our English system offers so little inducement to mathematicians and physicists to pursue their researches. Young men of twenty-one arrive at a marvellous state of proficiency for their age, and then entirely abandon the exact sciences for various professions; a foundation is laid on which a superstructure worthy of the countrymen of Newton might well be reared, and then the work is abandoned; the student must earn his subsistence, and he cannot earn it by geometrical or physical researches.

"We have no fear but that if the above, and other suggestions which we are about to make, should be carried out, the extended desire for acquiring knowledge of the kind in question would create a proportional demand for qualified instructors at all the principal educational establishments in the country, and their emoluments would again augment the desire to learn, both in university and general students.

"In addition to the above measures, there is no doubt that much might be done by the Committee of Privy Council and the Department of Science at Marlborough House under the direction of the Board of Trade, towards diffusing a knowledge of physical science among the pupils of primary and secondary schools, and it is with pleasure that we learn that some steps have already been taken in this direction.

"We are of opinion also, that means should be adopted for encouraging the foundation of Museums and Public Libraries, accessible to all, in our principal towns; and by degrees all imposts should be abolished which enhance the cost to the public of scientific publications. Donations should also be made to public libraries and educational establishments, of works published at the expense of the nation; such, *e. g.*, as the Geological and Ordnance Surveys.

How are the students and proficient in science to be encouraged?

"The measures which we have above described will not alone be sufficient to effect the object we have in view. However attractive Natural Science may be in itself, and it is impossible to over-estimate the pleasure which its study affords to the majority of minds, it cannot be expected that many men will pursue it to any extent, so long as fellowships and the other university prizes continue to be almost exclusively bestowed upon the students in other departments of knowledge. In Oxford more particularly, to use Mr. Grove's words, 'the *jeûne*, which has been eulogized by some, is peculiarly antagonistic to the study of physical science. It is true that by the recent statutes physics are

recognised, but they are not made compulsory or necessary. . . . From what I saw when resident at Oxford, the *genius loci* is so far removed from such studies, that, unless they are made compulsory, or tempting prizes are held out, the minds of young men will not for an indefinitely long period be directed into that channel, and thus, though the examination papers will look very well to the public, science will form no integral part of a university education.'

"Lord Rosse, again, in his last address to the Royal Society, has added his testimony to that of the many eminent men who have deplored in common the neglect of these studies at Oxford. 'A man,' says he, 'having taken a first class in *litteris humanioribus*, may be ignorant of physics in the most elementary form, and be incapable of comprehending the first principles of machinery and manufactures, or of forming a just and enlarged conception of the resources of this great country.'

"And lastly, the Chancellor of Oxford himself has lately advocated the extension of these studies in an eloquent appeal addressed to the University authorities on the occasion of founding the new museum.

"That important and instructive public document, the Report of the Oxford University Commissioners, shows how little the rewards now held out to students in mathematics at that university deserve to be denominated 'tempting'; they are in truth utterly insufficient; and unless the changes about to be introduced, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Commissioners, shall remedy this defect, we greatly fear that the anticipations above expressed by Mr. Grove will only be too well realized.

"We are, however, convinced that the well-being of the nation would be greatly promoted by an extension of scientific knowledge among all classes, and that more encouragement in the shape of reward for successful exertion must be provided before that desirable end can be accomplished.

"More numerous prizes ought to be provided at our universities; and other rewards and inducements both to study and to the prosecution of scientific research should be held out by the State.

"It is important that the endowments of Professors, who are at present very inadequately remunerated, should be augmented. Sir John Herschel mentions the following 'as one of the most directly beneficial steps which can be taken by Government for the advancement of science itself, as well as for the general diffusion of its principles: *viz.*, to increase the number, and materially improve the position, of the Professors of its several branches in all our Universities and public educational establishments; and to erect Local Professorships in the chief provincial towns, independent of any University; and more especially to make better and indeed handsome provision in the way of salary, for the Professors of those more abstract branches, which cannot be rendered popular and attractive, and therefore self-remunerating in the way of lectures.'

"We direct particular attention to the last paragraph, from a conviction of the importance of the suggestion therein contained. In a subsequent part of this Report, we have inserted a quotation from Professor Liebig relating to this subject.

"In a former Report we embodied a correspondence with the then Prime Minister respecting the unsatisfactory manner in which the bounty of Parliament, in the shape of pensions, has been hitherto distributed.

"The lamented Professor Forbes says, in the concluding paragraph of his reply to our Circular, 'It might be considered, whether it would not be desirable to found a number of scientific pensions, to be assigned, not for relief, but for reward of good service, like the good-service pensions in the army. They would often help to free the man of science from drudgery and pot-work, and give him the leisure for original research. They would be better rewards than ribands or stars, or other labels, upon the coats of philosophers.'

"Mr. Ball seems to doubt the propriety of the suggestion in reference to good-service pensions; he states 'that he has a strong sense of the probable evils of anything approaching to a system of Government patronage of scientific men, to which it would be a forward step.'

"The expediency of resorting to orders, or decorations, or any extension of the present system of bestowing medals, as a means of encouragement to the prosecution of physical researches, has been doubted. So long as the student is *in statu pupillari*, the system of rewarding by medals, or other honorary distinctions, presents little difficulty; but in the case of proficient, it is otherwise. In addition to other objections, there is one which in our opinion is deserving of serious consideration; and that is, that it seems difficult to devise any method of bestowing such distinctions that will be satisfactory. The Government are, by the hypothesis, not sufficiently informed; and it will perhaps not be considered desirable, that the system of the cultivators of science rewarding one another, should receive any important extension. We fear that in its present limited form, it can be hardly predicated of this mode of conferring distinction, that it has worked so well as to be entirely satisfactory. Only those versed in the particular branch of knowledge to be rewarded, can properly decide on the merit of the candidate; and the fear that partiality may be imputed to judges, who are either rivals, or will be considered as such by many, is likely both to render the task of decision irksome, and to impair the efficient exercise of the judicial function. Again, the value of a theory, or discovery, can seldom be justly appreciated by contemporaries:—Posterity alone can decide.

"Professor Phillips is of opinion, that medals should never be bestowed except for work done and published; and that they should never be given for mere mental proficiency; they should be rewards for public service, rather than proofs of personal merit.

"We believe, however, that whatever objections may be raised to the mode of distribution, that some medals are desirable, as incentives to exertion; at the same time, we are aware that there may be persons whose labours are but little affected by these and similar rewards. Engaged in elevated pursuits of an intellectual and attractive nature, and appreciating the pure delights which such researches impart, they are contented with the renown which successful exertion brings in its train, and they weigh not their own merits in a nicely-adjusted balance, and with a jealous eye, against those of their rivals in fame, nor calculate the chances of material reward. Sufficient it is for them that they have done mankind good service, and that those whom they have benefited have not proved wholly ungrateful.

"Professor Faraday, after speaking of the distinctions, both national and foreign, which may even now be earned, writes, 'I cannot say that I have not valued such distinctions; on the contrary, I esteem them very highly, but I do not think I have ever worked for, or sought after them.'

"The late Professor Moll, of Berlin, in his excellent pamphlet on the state of Science in England, has some remarks on the distribution of orders and medals abroad, which are not calculated to enhance the estimation in which they may be held by any one in this country.

"Again, the prosecution of some researches and the reduction and publication of results, are expensive, and beyond the means of many of the ablest and most active cultivators of science. The Wollaston Fund of the Royal Society, the Government grant, and the grants of the British Association afford, in addition to the funds of the various scientific societies, most useful aid, but further assistance is sometimes needed, and would be more so, were science more extensively cultivated, and such assistance might be safely accorded under the conditions hereafter recommended.

"The juxtaposition of the principal scientific societies in some central locality in the metropolis, is a question which has lately excited great interest among the cultivators of science.

"Lord Rosse, in his address to the Royal Society in 1853, observes, 'The interests of Science appear to me to be deeply involved in the question of providing a suitable building for the scientific societies. . . . If a man, naturally gifted and well educated, attends scientific meetings, he will feel himself constrained to work, and therefore it is so important for the advancement of knowledge, that able men should be induced to join and attend the different societies; but nothing I think would have greater attractions than a building in a convenient central situation, where the business of Science would be transacted, where there would be access to the best libraries, and where that kind of society most valued by scientific men would always be within reach.'

"The advantages of this juxtaposition are also shortly set forth in the Memorial on this subject presented to Lord Aberdeen, and are indeed so obvious that they need not be here re-stated at length. Mr. Grove, on this subject, observes, 'It should be borne in mind that scientific men have but very limited means of acting on Government; they are politicians in a less degree than any class of Her Majesty's subjects; they consist of men belonging to various classes of society, and whose ordinary occupations differ greatly. Most of the great measures of reform or progress which are effected in this country result from a strong pressure of public opinion, urged on by agitation; and as men of science are peculiarly unfitted for this process, Government might not unreasonably be asked to step out of its usual habits, and to lend science a helping hand.'

"Professor Forbes observes, 'Science must have a local habitation, and be something more than a name, ere it can make a permanent impression on the somewhat material mind of John Bull. As a man without a home, or, if houseless, without a club, is a doubtful and suspicious personage in the opinion of English householders, so is science a questionable myth whilst unprovided with a visible habitation. A first step, then, towards securing a due and wholesome reverence for science in the minds of the masses, educated and uneducated, is the congregation of the more important Scientific Societies in a central and convenient public edifice, where they shall be lodged at the cost, and by the authority, of the State. The prestige thus accorded to the Societies would soon extend to their members.'

"The Astronomer Royal, on the other hand, conceives that the advantages of juxtaposition have been overrated; but admits, that if the measure, recommended hereafter under our third head, be adopted, the propriety of such a Capitol of Science would be more evident.

"Having, however, considered this question in all its bearings, we cannot too strongly express our conviction, that the juxtaposition of the principal scientific societies would confer a most important benefit on Science; and almost all concur in this opinion.

"Of late years, considerable encouragement has been extended to practical science, and this is praiseworthy, provided that abstract science receive its due measure of support; but the genius of our countrymen is so eminently practical, that there is great fear that the less showy branch may be comparatively neglected. Mr. Grove observes, that in that case, 'not only will practical science itself suffer, but the country will lose its position in the scale of nations in all that most exalts them.' It would be, in fact, to use a common phrase, a beginning at the wrong end.

"This is a subject on which much misconception prevails, and this report may be read by some to whom the facts about to be stated are not so familiar as they are to those to whom it is primarily addressed. The following statement, therefore, may not be deemed wholly uncalled for. It is not uncommon to hear, or even to read, remarks in which the practical application of scientific truths is lauded at the expense of science itself, so that it might be inferred, that those from whom such observations proceed were completely ignorant—1st, of the extent to which the most abstract scientific investigations have often led to the most useful

industrial applications; and 2dly, of the many instances in which observations and experiments, seemingly trivial, and likely to lead to no useful result, have, sometimes after the lapse of years, and after having been submitted to a succession of master minds, been elaborated into discoveries of the greatest importance to the progress of civilization, and which do honour to human nature.

"These objectors to pure science have either forgotten, or never learned, that, in the words of an eminent writer, 'the modern art of navigation is an unforeseen emanation from the purely speculative, and apparently merely curious inquiry, by the mathematicians of Alexandria, into the properties of three curves formed by the intersection of a plane surface and a cone.'

"The Steam-Engine itself, so simple in its origin, and yet so fruitful of great results, derived its most important improvements from the abstract investigations, by Dr. Black and others, into the nature of heat—though it required the genius of a Watt to make them available in practice.

"Some curious properties of chemical substances, when acted on by light, were noted, and then arose the art of Photography, the applications of which both to Science and Art are in course of continual extension. Marvellous properties of light, called its 'polarization,' led to the invention of instruments by which submarine rocks may be discovered, to new modes of detecting the nature of chemical liquids, and to improvements in the art of refining beet-root sugar.

"Observations of the magnetism of iron, and on the elasticity of steel and relative expansions of metals, were the origin of the compass and chronometer, without which navigation and commerce (and how many countless blessings follow in their train!) would now be in almost as rude a state as in the time of the ancients.

"The examination of the properties of gases passing through narrow apertures, showed us how to shield the miner from destruction; and other chemical investigations, how to preserve the sheathing of ships from corrosion—an invention which, from unforeseen and remarkable causes, failed at first, but is now successful.

"To say nothing of Astrology and Alchemy, the experiments on the leg of a dead frog were the primary source of the electric telegraph, electrifying, the power of producing submarine explosions, and of blasting rocks with greater facility and safety, and the other invaluable applications of voltaic electricity to the arts.

"The labours of our Geologists teach us how to avoid useless expenditure in searches for minerals where none can by possibility be discovered, and where to seek for materials for our buildings.

"Those of the Botanist minister to our health; and the Meteorologist will, in addition to the other important applications of his science, soon be enlisted in the service of navigation. Nor is science less necessary to excellence in the arts of war than in those of peace; the construction and use of arms, fortification, surveys, rapid locomotion, screw steamers, and so forth, all depend on it for their success. Nor is this all: the calamities and failures in war may often be traced to the inefficient means possessed by governments of distinguishing the really scientific man from the ignorant pretender.

"This enumeration might be greatly extended, but sufficient has been said to prove how truly the same distinguished writer above quoted remarks, 'No limit can be set to the importance, even in a purely productive and material point of view, of mere thought. The labour of the savant, or speculative thinker, is as much a part of production, in the very narrowest sense, as that of the inventor of a practical art; many such inventions having been the direct consequences of theoretic discoveries, and every extension of knowledge of the powers of nature being fruitful of applications to the purposes of outward life.'

"On this subject Professor Liebig observes in a letter to Professor Faraday, dated February, 1844, and cited in 'Lyell's Travels in North America':—'What struck me most in England was the per-

ception that only those works that have a practical tendency awake attention and command respect; while the purely scientific, which possess far greater merit, are almost unknown. And yet the latter are the proper and true source from which the others flow. Practice alone can never lead to the discovery of a truth or a principle. In Germany it is quite the contrary. Here, in the eyes of scientific men, no value, or at least but a trifling one, is placed on the practical results. The enrichment of Science is alone considered worthy of attention. I do not mean to say that this is better; for both nations the golden medium would certainly be a real good fortune.

"Almost all who have replied to our Circular, or favoured us with suggestions, are opposed to the establishment of Institutes or Academies; nor is there any wish expressed that men of science, as such, should be appointed to high political offices in the State. As Assessors, however, or advisers to executive Boards, the services of scientific men would be highly valuable; and in foreign countries such services are believed to be much in request.

"Promotions in the Church have been occasionally made avowedly on the ground of literary merit; but if such claims be admissible, it would seem that scientific acquirements should not be overlooked in an age in which scepticism has been nourished by mistaken views of physical phenomena.

"The public offices which ought to be filled by men of science, as such, should be sufficiently well remunerated, both to ensure their acceptance by the most qualified men, and also to render them a desirable object of ambition, and swell the list of tempting prizes for scientific distinction. We believe that, with one single exception perhaps, all these offices are inadequately endowed.

"Nor is increase of salary all that is required; care should also be taken not to subject men of first-rate eminence in science to the harassing and vexatious interference of men of inferior calibre, uninterested in their pursuits, and unable to appreciate their devotion.

"Mr. Ball remarks, 'that it is not reasonable to expect that scientific offices in themselves very desirable, and arrived at by a career in itself interesting and attractive, should be rewarded by salaries equal to those which remunerate the devotion of time and industry to pursuits comparatively arid and distasteful. . . . but there are a good many offices filled by men of high scientific attainments, which are quite below the level which at the general standard of living befits the position of a gentleman.'

"It is also worthy of remark, that not only ought the present scientific offices to be placed on a more eligible footing in respect of remuneration, but that there is need for the institution of others answering to that description, which do not now exist.

"It would be unfair, however, not to remark, while discussing these matters, that the Government has already taken very important steps in the right direction, and has supplied very pressing wants by the establishment of the Department of Practical Geology, and of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, and its office for the discussion of nautical and meteorological data. Much yet remains to be done; but these and other acts, having a like tendency, such in particular as the 1000*l.* grant to the Royal Society before referred to, are an earnest that a disposition is not wanting 'to lend to science a helping hand.'

"We observed with pleasure that in regulating the studies of candidates for employment in India, Physical Science was not forgotten by the eminent men whose signatures are appended to the Report thereon.

"It appears to us that the question of the propriety of instituting public examinations, by which the degree of proficiency in knowledge of all candidates for public employment might be tested, is one of great interest, and that its right determination must exercise an important influence on the progress of education in any country.

"Finally, under both the above general heads

may be classed all measures for facilitating the circulation of scientific publications both at home and abroad—an object the importance of which it is difficult to over-estimate.

How are the proficients in science to make their opinions known, and cause them to be respected and adopted?

"We have already stated that late events have shown, that a disposition is not wanting in Government to give additional encouragement to Science; and the only way in which we can account for the rejection of some applications for aid, which from time to time have emanated from scientific societies and individuals, and which deserved a better fate, is by supposing that the members of the administration, to whom the applications were made, were either unwilling to prefer a demand for the necessary funds, or had some want of confidence in the judgment of those by whom the requests were preferred.

"Now the period at which the application was made may have been deemed an unseasonable one, as for example when the country is involved in war; we should, however, be concerned to see our country placed by any events in the position of being wholly unable to comply with demands of this kind; but for any want of confidence we think a remedy might be devised, which would relieve the Government from the performance of difficult and invidious duties, and give satisfaction to the cultivators of science at large.

"We observe that the Board of Visitors of the Greenwich Observatory has, in the proper discharge of its duties, been often compelled to recommend large outlays upon that establishment and matters connected with astronomy; and we believe there is no instance on record of the measures recommended being rejected, or even postponed, whatever might be the condition of public affairs, or whatever party might be in power. We believe that this is to be accounted for, in a great measure, by supposing that the Board of Visitors and the Astronomer Royal possess more of the confidence of Government than the governing bodies of societies can hope to acquire. This is probably owing to the permanent nature of this Board, the mode in which its members are appointed, and the kind of quasi connexion with the Government which its particular constitution involves. Again, the late Board of Longitude, and similar institutions in France, afford in like manner illustrations of the superior means possessed by public bodies so constituted of inspiring the ruling powers with confidence in their recommendations, and so causing their opinions to be respected and adopted.

"These considerations suggested the question, whether some Board could not be organized, somewhat after the model of these Boards, but with improvements, which should distribute Government grants, perform for the whole domain of Science the functions which two of the above-mentioned Boards still discharge for Navigation and Astronomy, and moreover act as a referee and arbitrator in matters connected with science brought under its cognizance by Government. At present, in Science, as in Art, Government has no responsible adviser, and the acceptance or rejection of any proposal of a scientific character, or of one for the proper determination of which some knowledge of science is required, depends upon the fiat of those who preside over the several public departments by virtue of qualifications, high it may be for the general purposes of the State, but wholly inadequate to the proper solution of the particular questions at issue.

"If such a Board as is above proposed could be constituted, which should acquire and deserve to possess the confidence of the Government and Parliament, it would be clearly for the interests of the nation and of science that it should exercise the above functions. What kind of constitution, then, must be given to the new Board, in order that it may fulfil the above requirements?

"We will begin with setting out the opinions of those who have done us the honour to favour us

with suggestions, premising that the late Professor Forbes, Colonel Sabine, Admiral Smyth, Sir Philip Egerton, and the Astronomer Royal have all expressed themselves in favour of the establishment of a new Board of Science, though, as might be expected, there is some difference of opinion as to its functions and the mode in which it ought to be constituted.

"Professor Forbes, who appears to have reflected much and well on the questions raised in this Report, says, 'I do not think anything like an Institute desirable . . . but I think that some Board, having at once authority and knowledge, should be constituted for the regulation and disposition of Government grants for scientific purposes, such as the assistance and endowment of scientific expeditions, the publication of their results, &c.; matters at present disposed of by capricious, often extravagant, oftener parsimonious, and sometimes pernicious methods. An approximation towards a right course is already made in the case of the disposal of the 1000*l.* grant for assisting scientific researches. Now I would work all government grants for such purposes as the above-mentioned, by a modification of that scheme, viz., through an unsalaried committee, constituted much as the Recommendation Committee is at present, combined with an endowed staff, consisting of a salaried representative (always a man of distinguished eminence and authority in his line of research) of each of the following departments: Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Mechanics, Physiology, Zoology, Botany, Geology, Chemistry.'

"Colonel Sabine considers that the working of the Board of Longitude, whilst Dr. Young was its secretary, affords a model which, with a few and slight modifications, might be extremely suitable for a Board, which should be constituted with a more extended scientific scope.

"Admiral Smyth writes, 'Now for Science a real boon would be the establishment of a proper Board of Longitude, organized on clear principles, and armed with power tantamount to its responsibility. This great step gained, the cultivators of science would necessarily advance . . . A good Board of Longitude is meet for a maritime nation, and would, *de facto*, form its great synod of knowledge.' Again he writes, he does not mean a Board constituted as the former one so called, but 'a useful institution resembling the French Bureau des Longitudes, a Board managed by unequivocally qualified men, both in talent and vocation, with regular salaries, who are personally responsible for their public proceedings, whether regarding opinions, rewards, or publications. This Bureau is composed of Géomètres, Astronomes, Anciens Navigateurs, Géographes, Artistes, and Adjoints; and there is no doubt but that the model may be improved.'

"Sir Philip Egerton describes the evils which result to Science from the want of system in entertaining and deciding upon projects, and carrying out the determinations of successive Governments in reference to questions of science. He complains that applications have to be made sometimes to one department, sometimes to another; that Governments are prone to give ear, not to propositions in relation solely to the acquisition and furtherance of pure Science, but to the economic application of scientific principles to the improvement of arts and manufactures; a most essential matter indeed, and properly confided to the Board of Trade, but which ought not to be confounded with the more intellectual process of scientific research. Sir Philip thus proceeds:— 'The toil and labour of the latter are too apt to be left to the unaided exertions of the scientific drudge, and the Government steps in and reaps the benefit,—the osprey catches the fish, but the sea-eagle appropriates it. The remedy I would propose for this state of things is, the establishment of a Board of Science, to which all questions of a scientific nature might be referred by the Government for consideration. The constitution of this Board might be easily made such as to command the confidence both of the Government

and the public; but it should be provided, that only a portion of the members should be dependent on the existence of the ministry of the day. Certain funds might be placed yearly at the absolute disposition of the Board; but all recommendations for the application of large funds would of course require the sanction of the Government.

"The Astronomer Royal considers a restriction of the functions of the Board desirable; he thinks that it should initiate proposals and urge them on the Government; but he objects to its acting as a general referee and arbitrator in all matters connected with science.

"There is an expression in the letter of Professor Forbes which appears to us to describe, with great propriety, what ought to be the characteristics of the future Board; he says, 'it should have at once authority and knowledge;' and after weighing all the above suggestions, and considering the constitution of other Boards established for carrying out nearly similar objects, we think that the new Board should be composed of a certain number of persons holding high official situations in the State, more or less connected with science and education; and others holding scientific offices under the Government; together with the most eminent men in every department of science. With respect to the official class, there can be no necessity that they should be as numerous as in the late Board of Longitude, of which about fourteen persons answering to that description were members.

Lord Rosse, the Astronomer Royal, and Admiral Smyth, have expressed opinions unfavourable to the admission of great Officers of State as *ex officio* members of the proposed Board. Admiral Smyth is even opposed to *ex officio* members altogether, and would have all the members of the Board elected. In these views of the Admiral we cannot concur; but the expediency of admitting the great Officers at all admits of some doubt. We are unwilling to believe that the free expression of opinion on the part of the other members of the Board would be controlled by the presence of Ministers of State to the extent apprehended by the Astronomer Royal; but an objection to the measure alluded to by Lord Rosse, viz., that these Officers must of necessity, in the great majority of instances, derive their information on the subjects discussed from the discussion itself, is entitled to some weight.

"Whatever determination, however, may be adopted in reference to these matters, we are anxious that a principle of stability and permanence should have place in constituting a body which is to exercise such important functions. A certain proportion of the members might perhaps hold their offices for life, as is now the case in the Board of Visitors at Greenwich; but some provision should be made for the retirement of a sufficient number, to ensure the ranks being recruited occasionally by the election of young and rising men in the various departments of science. It may not perhaps be advisable to endanger the success of an application to Government for the establishment of this Board, by adopting the suggestions of those who desire that salaries should be given to several of its members, as such. We may perhaps trust to the ultimate adoption of some of our other recommendations, in which the general public are more directly interested, for providing stimulants to scientific exertion, without seeking for them here.

"It will be necessary, however, that a secretary, with a salary, should be appointed to the Board, and that a place of meeting and deposit for papers should be assigned.

"Professor Phillips suggests that the proceedings of the Board should be embodied in an annual report to Parliament, which should be widely circulated; a suggestion in which we entirely coincide.

"It will probably be thought right that the functions of the Board should be rather strictly defined in the instrument which constitutes it.

"If the working of the Board be satisfactory, and the confidence of Parliament and the public be really acquired, it is hardly taking too sanguine a view to anticipate,—1st, that there will be greater assistance and encouragement given than heretofore

to science and scientific researches, and the reduction and publication of such researches, in cases where such aid is required; 2ndly, that the necessary funds will be more directly and easily obtained; and, 3rdly, that the influence and authority of such a body of distinguished men will ensure the adoption of all suggestions made or approved by them for the benefit of science, check improvident and reckless schemes, promote those that are deserving of encouragement, and generally give to science its due weight and importance in the councils of the nation.

"It may be that the union in one Board, of men holding high executive offices in the State, and others who, however distinguished in their own departments of knowledge, have in the course of their pursuits acquired habits of abstraction, which are supposed by some to be unfavourable to the development of administrative capacity, will be attended with beneficial results to the working of the institution in question, the members of which will learn by degrees to appreciate all that is valuable in the characteristics of each of the sections of which it will be composed.

"We think that the new Board ought not to consist of less than about thirty-five members; and if it be objected that this number is too large for business, it must be borne in mind, that most of the work will be done by standing sub-committees for the various departments of science, organized somewhat after the model of the Sections in our own Association, reporting to the general body, who will revise their proceedings. It would be hardly possible to include all those who have a claim to be members, and whose counsel and assistance it is most desirable to secure, if any attempt were made still further to limit the numbers. The late Board of Longitude, though presiding over only one department of science, contained about twenty-seven members.

"It is proper to add, that Lord Rosse is doubtful as to the expediency of constituting the new Board of Science, on the ground, principally, that the duties here assigned to it might equally well be performed by the Council of the Royal Society, enlarged for the purpose; and that the Society would be in fact so far superseded by the new body.

"We cannot concur in this view. It cannot fairly be contended that the Council of the Royal Society, or any Committee appointed by it, confined as they must necessarily be to the members of one Society, is likely to contain at any time within it such a union and variety of talent as would be concentrated in the new Board, if properly constituted. We believe, moreover, that eminent members of that Society do not entertain the apprehensions of their late President.

"The Government again are never likely, as has been before fully explained, to extend as much of their confidence to any one Society, however eminent, as to the proposed Board.

"In conclusion, it appears that though our Committee have endeavoured to elicit opinions from members of their own body, and from many eminent cultivators of science, they have the gratification of discovering that none of the suggestions offered, or changes proposed, are of such a nature as to impose any serious difficulty on Government, Parliament, or the Universities, were they at once to concede all that is asked.

"Such of the above suggestions as we think deserving of the serious and earnest attention of Government, Parliament, and the Universities, and which we may term our desiderata, may be summed up in the following propositions:—

"1st. That reforms shall take place gradually in the system of any of our Universities which do not at present exact a certain proficiency in physical science as a condition preliminary to obtaining a degree.

"2ndly. That the number of Professors of Physical Science at the Universities shall be increased, where necessary; but that at all events, by a redistribution of subjects, or other arrangements, provision should be made for effectually teaching all the various branches of physical science.

"3rdly. That Professors and Local Teachers shall be appointed to give lectures on Science in the chief provincial towns, for whose use philosophical apparatus shall be provided; and that arrangements shall be made for testing by examination the proficiency of those who attend such lectures.

"4thly. That the formation of Museums and Public Libraries in such towns, open to all classes, shall be encouraged and assisted in like manner as aid is now given to instruction in the principles of art; that all imposts shall by degrees be abolished that impede the diffusion of scientific knowledge; and such donations of national publications be made as above mentioned.

"5thly. That more encouragement shall be given, by fellowships, increased salaries to Professors, and other rewards, to the study of Physical Science.

"6thly. That an alteration shall be made in the present system of bestowing pensions; some annuities in the nature of good-service pensions be granted; and additional aid be given to the prosecution, reduction, and publication of scientific researches.

"7thly. That an appropriate building, in some central situation in London, shall be provided at the cost of the nation, in which the principal Scientific Societies may be located together.

"8thly. That scientific offices shall be placed more nearly on a level, in respect to salary, with such other civil appointments as are an object of ambition to highly educated men; that the officers themselves shall be emancipated from all such interference as is calculated to obstruct the zealous performance of their duties; and that new scientific offices shall be created in some cases in which they are required.

"9thly. That facilities shall be given for transmitting and receiving scientific publications to and from our colonies and foreign parts.

"10thly, and lastly. That a Board of Science shall be constituted, composed partly of persons holding offices under the Crown, and partly of men of the highest eminence in science, which shall have the control and expenditure of the greater part at least of the public funds given for its advancement and encouragement, shall originate applications for pecuniary or other aid to science, and generally perform such functions as are above described, together with such others as Government or Parliament may think fit to impose upon it.

"Of the value of science no one surely can doubt who has received any mental training worthy of the name of education; and, notwithstanding any seeming indifference to an object of such vital importance, we believe that a feeling does pervade the community at large that our country's welfare, and even safety, depend upon its due encouragement and fostering; and this is evidenced by the readiness with which the House of Commons accedes to demands, when made, on its behalf. Owing, however, to the system which prevails in this country, of each successive Government striving to outvie its predecessors in popularity by the reduction of public burdens, there is a temptation sometimes to withhold grants which may swell the total outlay of departments in which reductions are contemplated. This it is more particularly which, in our opinion, renders the creation of the new Board, or some analogous measure, necessary.

"Whatever may be the result of this appeal, or of any other measures which we may adopt in the discharge of our duty of watching over the interests of Science, we will never cease our endeavours to diffuse a sense of what is due to science, and to those who make great personal sacrifices for the sake of a pursuit on which the happiness and welfare of mankind so materially depend.

"WROTTESELEY, Chairman."

The most important suggestion in the foregoing Report is, without doubt, the creation of an official Board of Science. The unsatisfactory position of affairs at the British Museum, to which we shall more particularly allude next week, is owing mainly to the governing body being constituted of men uninterested in the pursuits of science, of literature, and of art, and unable to appreciate their position in the national service; and it is high time that in the ministry of science as well as of politics we should have the right men in the right places.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

A RETURN has been printed by order of the House of Commons of the appropriation of the five grants of 1000*l.* each, placed during the five years 1850 to 1854, at the disposal of the Royal Society for the purposes of science, but we defer the publication of it in detail until next week.

Does any hope remain, is a question asked on all sides at the numerous local gatherings of antiquaries, of preserving the collection of London antiquities, formed by Mr. C. Roach Smith, to the nation, and of presenting them as an historical monument to the people? Of their being exhibited to the public in the British Museum, we may answer at once that there is no hope whatever.

The Board of Trustees, as at present constituted, is not a Board of Science, of Literature, or of Art, but a Board of promiscuous *ex-officio* placemen; and there is no institution in the country in which public interests are directed in a manner so opposed to the wishes and opinions of competent scientific, literary, and art authorities. But there is a quarter in which we would fain believe some hope remains of preserving this collection—the City Museum—and we doubt, after all, whether this is not the most proper depository. Mr. C. Roach Smith's collection, as our readers know, has been offered to the City Corporation, but it has never been rejected. The answer was as follows:—

"Town Clerk's Office, Guildhall,
4th June, 1855.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Library Committee to inform you, with their compliments, that on the 7th May last the Committee resolved, that 'pending the bill now in Parliament for establishing free libraries and museums in all large towns, and in the absence of information as to the sum required for the purchase, the question should not at present be entertained' respecting the purchase of Mr. Roach Smith's Museum. I am, Sir, &c.

"C. Roach Smith, Esq."

"HENRY R. GOLDSMITH.

The Public Libraries and Museums Bill, above referred to, has now become the law of the land, and we trust the Corporation will entertain some plan for acquiring and exhibiting this collection, and be able to negotiate with Mr. Smith for the purchase of it on remunerative terms. Simultaneously with the foregoing we may again call attention to the new Archaeological Society which is being formed for the county of Middlesex, under the presidency of Lord Londesborough. No really local sympathy or patronage has been exercised by any corporate body in favour of the antiquities of the metropolis and its county. It has been left to individual zeal to save an occasional ancestral relic from the rubbish and pickaxe of the sewer-borer and foundation-layer, and to trace its history; and if the City Corporation were to establish a Museum of Antiquities, taking Mr. C. Roach Smith's collection as the nucleus, how much might be done in aid of it by such a body of antiquaries as is now being organized for the advancement of metropolitan archaeological science.

The Cambrian Archaeological Association held their annual meeting last week at Llandeilo-Fawr, under the presidency of Lord Dynevor. The excursions comprised visits to Castell Cerrig Cennen, an ancient fortress in the neighbouring mountains, supposed to be of the time of Edward III.; to the Roman gold mines of Gogofawr, and the museum of Mr. D. Jones, at Dolaucothly, where the members inspected the Roman bath in that neighbourhood, and returned by the romantic ruin of Talley Abbey, a building of the 13th century, to Llandeilo; to the terrace of Golden-grove, to Bishop Jeremy Taylor's church at Llanfihangel, Dryslwyn Castle, Grongar Hill, and Dynevor Castle; to the British fortress and settlement of Carn Goch, one of the most extraordinary monuments of these islands, scarcely inferior in interest to Abury or Stonehenge; and to the fine castle of Kidwelly; in each of which places explanatory lectures were given by members. The following is a list of the papers read on the occasion:—'Early British Antiquities on Carn Goch,' by Archdeacon Williams; 'On Tre'r Ceiri, Carnarvonshire,' by Mr. Love Parry, of Madryn-park; 'On Early British Forts near Llanberis,' by Mr. C. C. Babington; 'On the Names of Cromlechs,' by Mr. T. Stephens. 'Early Inscriptions; on the Early Inscribed Stones of Carmarthenshire,' by Mr. J. O. Westwood; 'On some Inscribed Stones with Ogham characters in Pembrokeshire,' by Mr. Longueville Jones. 'Roman Antiquities; on the Roman Gold Mines at Gogofawr, near Llandeilo,' by the Rev. H. H. Knight. 'Saxon Antiquities; on Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke,' by Mr. Longueville Jones. 'Historical Antiquities; on the Early Divisions of Carmarthenshire,' by Mr. T. O. Morgan; 'A complete List of the Sheriffs of Carmarthenshire,' by Mr. Joseph; 'On Castell Cerrig Cennen,' by Archdeacon Williams. 'Architectural Antiquities; on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Wales,' by Mr. E. A. Freeman, F.S.A.; and 'Heraldic Antiqui-

ties; on the Armorial Bearings of the Princes of Wales,' by Mr. Longueville Jones.

Mr. George Hillier, of whose excavations at Chessel Down we last week gave some account, is preparing to publish by subscription, 'A History of the Isle of Wight, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time.' "It is nearly seventy years," says the prospectus, "since the publication of the volume known as 'Worsley's History of the Isle of Wight'; and although it was then, doubtless, as perfect a work as the materials at the disposal of the compiler would allow him to produce, it is now possible to place before the public one of far wider research. To effect this object a series of extensive excavations, by the kind permission of the Hon. W. A. Court Holmes, Sir John Simeon, Bart., and other proprietors, have been made for the purpose of illustrating the period prior to the Conquest. The Records and State Papers in the various Collections are being most minutely examined; very much valuable information from private muniments has been freely rendered; and the General, Military, Parochial, Genealogical, and Manorial History will be fully investigated, accompanied by Engravings on copper and wood; comprising Portraits of the celebrated men who have been either natives of, or connected with the Island; the valuable Anglo-Saxon remains recently discovered by the author, Facsimiles of interesting MSS. and Maps, and Drawings of Seals, Coins, Buildings, and all matters illustrative of the past." The work is to be published in Parts, of which the first is announced to be ready about October next.

We have authority for stating that there is no truth in a paragraph which has appeared in several of the papers, to the effect that the editorship of the 'Quarterly Review' has passed into the hands of the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, the biographer and son-in-law of the late Dr. Arnold. The Rev. Whitwell Elwin, to whom the editorship was confided at the suggestion of the previous editor, the late Mr. Lockhart, during his last illness, still occupies that honourable post, and performs its duties very much, we believe, to the advantage of literature, and the satisfaction of that political party with which the journal is identified.

The prizes of poetry, history, and literature of the French Institute have been awarded as follows:—9000 francs to M. Augustin Thierry, author of the 'Considérations sur l'Histoire de France,' the 'Récits des Temps Mérovingiens,' and the 'Introduction à l'Histoire du Tiers-Etat.' M. Henri Martin, author of 'The History of France under Louis XIV.' received the second prize of 1000 francs, forming with the preceding one the annual sum left to the Academy by Baron Gobert. Three prizes of 2500 francs each to the class of books on morality, three, however, relating but distantly to that subject, the 'Empire Chinois,' by the Abbé Huc; the 'Histoires Poétiques,' by A. Briseux; and the 'Etudes sur l'Histoire du Gouvernement représentatif en France de 1789 à 1848,' by Count Louis de Carné. Medals of the value of 2000 francs each were severally awarded to 'La Charette Chrétienne dans les Premiers Siècles de l'Eglise,' by Count Frantz de Champagne; to 'Fables Nouvelles,' by Leon Halevy; and to 'Récits de l'Histoire de France,' by M. Courgeon. The prize of eloquence was divided between two competitors, M. Eugene Poitou, and M. Lefevre-Portalis, for their Critical Essays on the 'Memoirs of the Duc de Saint Simon.' Only one of M. de Monthyon's two three-thousand franc prizes was awarded this year, the successful candidate being M. Taine, author of an 'Etude Critique et Oratoire sur Tite-Live.' The subject of the prize not awarded was—'The History of French Narrative Poetry in the Middle Ages'; a medal of the value of 1500 francs has, however, been given to M. Chabaille, the author of the best essay sent in on the subject.

Mr. Lewis Weston Dillwyn, of Sketty Hall, near Swansea, a naturalist of long standing, died a few days since, at the advanced age of 77. Mr. Dillwyn was chiefly interested in the study of botany, but devoted himself warmly in early life to concho-

logical pursuits. His 'Descriptive Catalogue of Shells,' written prior to the publication of Lamarck's great work on the subject, is still highly valued on account of the care and diligence with which the species and synonyms of the older naturalists are worked out. Mr. Dillwyn was a member of the Royal and Linnean Societies for more than half-a-century, having been elected into the former in 1804, and into the latter in 1800.

The Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow is to hold its fiftieth annual meeting in the course of the present month. It has written to the Academy of Sciences of Paris to express a hope to be favoured with communications from the members of that learned body.

The Senate of Hamburg has ordered that a large gold medal shall be struck in honour of Dr. Barth, the African traveller, and shall be presented to him with public solemnity on his return to Germany. The Academy of Berlin, and other learned societies, have elected M. Barth one of their members.

The principle of forming temporary exhibition of articles of *virtu*, for the delight and instruction of the people, from the rich private stores of the nobility and gentry, has developed itself this season in a most agreeable manner at the pleasant watering place of Worthing. A collection of the highest interest has been formed in the Town Hall, consisting of oil paintings, and water colours, enamel miniatures and sculpture, ancient plate and jewellery, and curious engravings, books, manuscripts, &c., in lots to the number of 300; and the public is admitted on payment of a shilling. Among the contributors to this interesting exhibition are the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Anglesey, the Duke of Richmond, Lord Henry Paget, Sir John Fitzgerald, Sir John Kirkland, and most of the surrounding gentry. It should be added that the exhibition, which evinces great zeal and taste, is got up by the Committee of the Worthing Institution. A special visit was made to it on Thursday, by the Sussex Archaeological Society.

Professors Liebig, Dumas, and Agassiz are, we hear, expected at Glasgow next week, and the meeting of the Association is likely to be honoured with the attendance of several foreigners who were engaged to attend the German meeting of Physicists and Naturalists recently postponed. We are glad to notice that it is intended to admit ladies this year to the dinners as well as to the conversazioni of the Association.

The annual meeting of the Norwich Public Library was held on Thursday, the President, Mr. R. Fitch, in the chair. The accounts submitted to the members showed a more favourable state of things than was anticipated, and the fortunes of the institution appear to be reviving.

We are requested by Mr. Watkins, printer, of Nelson-place, Blackfriars, to announce that "after an existence of four years, and the expenditure of several thousand pounds in competing with its rival, 'Watkins's London Directory' has ceased to exist."

The 'American Literary Gazette' announces the publication of a new work, entitled 'New York Naked,' by the author of 'New York Above Ground and Under Ground,' and 'New York by Gas Light.'

M. Rolle, author of two esteemed works, 'Histoire des Religions de la Grèce,' and 'Recherches sur le culte de Bacchus,' has just died at a very advanced age. He was a noted antiquary, and was for some years librarian of the city of Paris.

The twenty-second meeting of the Scientific Congress of France is to take place on the 18th of this month at Le Puy. The museum of the town is peculiarly rich in paleontology.

M. de Quatrefages, member of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, has been nominated Professor of Anthropology in the Museum of Natural History in that city, in the room of M. Serres.

The Rev. C. Smyth, one of the curates of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, has accomplished the ascent of Mont Blanc, from the Courmayeur side, with a party of friends—without guides.

M. Rauch, the Prussian sculptor, has just finished a statue of Kant for Königsberg.

The financial report of the Birmingham Musical Festival is most satisfactory, the amount being the largest ever taken, except on one previous occasion. The total receipts were 12,633*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* In 1852, the amount was 11,925*l.*; in 1849, 10,334*l.*; in 1846, 11,633*l.*; and in 1843, 8822*l.* The expenses of these triennial festivals, and the consequent profits, have been extremely various. Thus in 1846, the surplus of 5508*l.* was available, but in 1849, only 2448*l.* We have not seen any statement of the exact expenditure of this year, but the average of several recent festivals has been above 7000*l.* Mr. Costa has declined to receive remuneration offered to him for his oratorio, and we are happy to add, a committee has been formed for presenting him with some suitable acknowledgment of this liberality and of his valuable services.

Mr. Anderson, well known as 'the Wizard of the North,' has commenced a series of performances at the Lyceum Theatre, the stage of which is fitted up in an elaborate and complete manner for his operations. In addition to the feats of legerdemain and puzzling paradoxes, usually exhibited in such entertainments, Mr. Anderson gives illustrations and exposures of the spirit-rapping which has caused so much excitement in America. By mechanical arrangements and natural agency, all the "manifestations" are produced with which the ignorant have been deluded under the name of "spiritualism." At New York, and other places in the United States, good service was done by these exposures, in checking the influence of the impostors who were preying on public credulity. Mr. Anderson is a sensible lecturer as well as an expert performer, and although of course he does not reveal the *modus operandi* of his tricks, he begins with the frank announcement, that he makes use of well-known principles in mechanics, hydraulics, and other branches of physical science, and that his feats only illustrate the words of Shakespeare as to "the eyes being made the fools of the other senses." As these are his farewell performances previous to retirement, after twenty-five years' public practice of his art, we recommend a visit to the Lyceum to all who wish to see the perfection of "modern magic."

A new three-act comedy, by Mr. Stirling Coyne, *The Man of Many Friends*, was produced at the Haymarket Theatre last Saturday evening, with deserved success. The falsehood of mere worldly friendship is the fair, though not pleasant, subject of satire. A tradesman, Mr. Peter Pottles (Mr. Buckstone), who has retired with a fortune, and lives with his wife (Miss Reynolds) in a comfortable villa at Norwood, is victimized by a set of sponging acquaintances, whom the good-hearted but ambitious Mrs. Pottles encourages as belonging to a circle of society to which she felt gratified by being admitted. Some amusing varieties of character are exhibited among the friends, and a strong contrast is presented in the person of Mr. Sam Skrymshire (Mr. Compton), a Lincolnshire farmer, who visits his old companion, to the great dismay of Mrs. Pottles, who tries to hide his vulgarity from her fashionable acquaintances. An amusing byplay is introduced in a scene of domestic jealousy, arising out of the supposed infidelity of Mr. Pottles, from the cries of an infant in a room which he always kept carefully locked. It turns out, however, that the cries proceed from a wonderful doll, which Mr. Pottles, whose trade had been that of a dollmaker, had amused the heavy hours of his leisure in manufacturing. The end of the piece is the happy deliverance of the comfortable couple from their false friends through the aid of the faithful Lincolnshire farmer. The acting is clever throughout, and the play, though not marked by much originality or unusual cleverness, is admirably produced as to stage effect, and the incidents and dialogues are managed with a tact which sustains Mr. Coyne's reputation as one of the best writers of light comedy of the day.

The season at the Princess's Theatre will conclude next week, *Henry VIII.* still continuing to be the nightly entertainment.

Although this is the dull season at Paris in the

literary world, a new five-act comedy, by M. Leon Gozlan, has been produced at the Théâtre Français. It turns on the intrigues which preceded or led to the marriage of Louis XV. with Marie Leczinska, and is written with a good deal of sprightliness. It is well played, especially by Augustine Brohan.

A French theatre is about to be started at Constantinople, and it is to perform comic opera, vaudeville, and ballet. The authorities of Constantinople have given every encouragement to the enterprise.

Miss Glyn, the actress and Shakspearian reader, has been married to Mr. E. S. Dallas, author of a clever work on poetry and the philosophy of criticism (see 'L. G.' 1853, p. 379), entitled 'Poetics: an Essay on Poetry.'

Madame Jenny Lind is suffering from a very serious malady in the eyes.

VARIETIES.

To John Britton.

In Britain born, by Britons bred,
John Britton still holds up his head,
The busiest bee of all the hive,
And though he's nearly eighty-five,
He daily plies his ready pen
To benefit his fellow men.

When seventy years of age, or more,
Nay—fast approaching to four score,
He undertook to write his 'Life,'
A work with interest so rife

That few can read it and restrain
The wish to take it up again;
Its style so clear, so plain, indeed,
That even "he who runs may read."

He there unfolds, with artless guise,
How all from lowly state may rise,
If they, like him, pursue with real
The path which leads to public weal.

His placid mien and cheerful face
In every lineament you trace,
And soon discover by his looks
His chief delight has been in books.

Of which he boasts a goodly store
Replete with Antiquarian lore.
Our friend in early life became
A humble aspirant for fame.

By his most laudable researches
Amongst the mansions, castles, churches,
Which so adorn our native land
And claim regard on every hand.

These noble buildings he has made,
By virtue of the graver's aid
And his own facile, ready pen,
Familiar to his countrymen;

And all, who like himself, can trace
The beauty, symmetry and grace
Which our Cathedrals everywhere
Unfold to view, must hold him dear.

And own he's fairly won a name
And title to undying fame.—
Long be the cruel stroke delayed
Which summons him to death's dark shade,

To that unseen and "silent bourne"
From whence he never can return;
For though our loss will be his gain,
"We ne'er shall see his like again."

His memory in his works shall live,
And further times fresh laurels give
To him whose worth and well-earned fame
New lustre add to Britain's name.

Thomas Clark.

American Journalism.—We have in New York city upwards of 120 newspapers, with an aggregate annual circulation of 80,000,000, our population being about 850,000. I have seen a late tabular statement which gives to London only ninety-four papers, having an annual issue of 53,000,000. Our census returns for 1850 give us 2526 newspapers, with an aggregate issue of 526,409,978. The table before me makes the number for the United Kingdom 516, with a circulation of 90,000,000. The city of Cincinnati, which had not a single inhabitant when 'The Times' started, now has sixteen daily papers, and the annual issues of its thirty papers are 9,000,000.—*Correspondent of the Rock.*

The first Railroad.—Now with regard to railroads. Where was the first railroad undertaken of any considerable magnitude in this country? It was undertaken between Manchester and Liverpool, and was much opposed in its day. It was thought altogether impracticable. I myself served on the committee to which the question was submitted whether or not the railroad was to be made. Mr. Stephenson was examined upon that committee, and modestly presumed to hope that he might be able to find conveyances to travel twelve miles an hour! At that time such a thing was considered altogether impossible and incredible; his evidence was slighted, and, the first time the Liverpool and Manchester scheme went before Parliament, the bill was rejected. Though defeated, however, they were not beaten. They claimed a second hearing. The evidence was more calmly taken; the matter was more fully sifted; at length the sanction of the Legislature was given to the undertaking, and you know the result. It was the first railroad that was made, and the consequence was, that more good has been done by that great example than perhaps any triumphs which can be mentioned.—*Sir James Graham at Carlisle.*

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The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on the 30th May, 1851, when a Report of the business for the last year was presented, exhibiting a statement of most satisfactory progress. It appeared that during the two last years, 1849 and 1850, between 600 and 900 new Assurances had been effected, producing an increase of Premium Income amounting to £14,000 per annum. It also appeared that, notwithstanding the extraordinary mortality which prevailed during the last year in consequence of the visitation of the cholera, it had not been found necessary to reduce, in the slightest, the allowance previously awarded to the Policy-holders.

The Members present at the Meeting were fully satisfied with the Report, and resolved unanimously that a reduction of 3½ per Cent. should be made in the current year's Premium payable by all Policy-holders now entitled to participate in the Profits.

Credit is allowed for half the Annual Premiums for the first five years.

The following Table exemplifies the effect of the present reduction.

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	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20	1000	20 17 6	6 11 6	14 6 0
30	1000	25 19 4	8 1 8	17 11 8
40	1000	33 18 4	10 13 8	23 4 8
50	1000	48 16 8	15 7 8	33 9 0
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40	1 9	2 18 4	4	3 2 7 6	1 4 4	0 12 4	4
50	2 2 6	4 5 0	6	2 7 10	1 4 6	0 12 6	6
60	3 6 8	6 13 4	9	2 8 1	1 4 8	0 12 6	9

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